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THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND ITS APPLICATION TO NATIVE AMERICANS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-NINTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

JUNE 28, 1986

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THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND ITS APPLICATION TO NATIVE AMERICANS

SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1986

U.S. Senate,
Special Committee on Aging,
Oklahoma City, OK.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10 a.m., in the Senate Chambers, State Capitol, Oklahoma City, OK, Hon. Don Nickles presiding.

Present: Senator Nickles.

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR DON NICKLES, PRESIDING

Senator Nickles. First I want to thank everyone for coming. Many of you came from some distance to get here by 10 o'clock on a Saturday morning, and I appreciate your attendance. It shows that there is a lot of interest in the Older Americans Act and in seeing that we improve the services provided under its provisions.

I appreciate your interest in the welfare of our native American elderly, and I hope that this hearing today will shed more light on the problems that Indian elderly are having.

It is my desire to see to it that the special needs of our Indian elderly are addressed in a compassionate and timely manner. Our State has more than 20,000 Indian elderly citizens, a growing population that must not be forgotten.

This hearing is held on behalf of the Special Committee on Aging, of which I am a member. It is the first to be held by the committee on the needs of our Indian elderly and the implementation of services under the Older Americans Act.

Under this act, title III authorizes grants to State agencies that provide services to the elderly. Specifically, States are encouraged to provide a comprehensive delivery system for support and nutrition services, and multipurpose senior citizen centers. Title VI offers comparable services to our native American citizens. During 1985, awards were made to 120 tribal organizations, including 23 Oklahoma tribes.

Also discussed today will be the effectiveness of the Administration on Aging in addressing the special needs of our native American elderly. We have with us today John Diaz, the Regional Program Director of the Administration, to testify on its behalf.

We cannot ignore the unique problems facing our Indian elderly. The future may belong to the young, but it is the wisdom of the elderly that will determine just what that future will be.

We have three panels. Our first panel will discuss the sensitivity of the Administration on Aging to our native Americans. The second panel will discuss the coordination of services between title III and title VI of the Older Americans Act and the third panel will discuss the availability of services under the act.

Our first panelist is Rudy Cleghorn, Otoe-Missouria Tribe, from Red Rock, OK.

Rudy, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF RUDY CLEGHORN, OTOE-MISSOURIA TRIBE, RED ROCK, OK

Mr. CLEGHORN. Thank you, Senator.

If I may, I would like to summarize my overview, which I am sure you have a copy of, and I want to point out that it is not exactly that the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging is asking for a pat on the back, but we did sort of spearhead what has developed into this hearing today.

We did that by an unique approach of going about the United States and apprising those who listened of the fact that we were the voice of the older Indians, not only in Oklahoma, but the United States, as well as the elderly Indians in Alaska.

So, our approach was that we set out to develop linkages with the aging network. We knew from our discussions with other aging advocates in the Indian field that we all share the same concerns, but we were not mutually cooperant; we were not organized; we were fragmented. This was the weakness that we set out to correct.

In a nutshell, what we did, we traveled and set up meetings with organizations to discuss these concerns. And one of the organizations with which we discussed our approach was the staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. Every time we went to Washington, we met with these people, and we met also with people from the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Council on Aging, and from the American Foundation of the Blind, just to mention three. And also, on one occasion, we met with the Commissioner, Acting Commissioner Fisk of the Administration on Aging.

Well, we had action steps that we took, and one of the action steps was to organize the title VI grantees into a national organization. This took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in March 1986. We will eliminate some of the steps that precede that action step as it is covered in the overview that I have prepared.

I will not present the comments about the panelists since the format is that they will do that themselves. But what we have done is to impress the staff with the Special Committee on Aging with the firm belief that existing gaps and deficiencies in the service delivery system are responsible for the older Indians to be underserved and unserved. This has been a very rewarding experience for me, Senator, to work closely with these dedicated advocates who are on the panel today.

And as advocates, we all believe in this appellate advocacy precept: "If you have the facts on your side, hammer the facts. If you have the law on your side, hammer the law. If you have neither the facts or the law, hammer the table." But we are very familiar with our Indian elders so we have those facts on our side. We also have the law on our side, in the mandate of the Older Americans Act. So I do not anticipate that anyone will be pounding on the table today.

You are aware of the topical areas and who these people are. And I will just skip over to say that by the time this hearing concludes, we will have thoroughly dwelled on the need for the human values represented by our position to be clearly understood. We will have presented the best case that we can. We have done the best we can in the amount of time allotted us, and we will have explained why we feel the way we do and hope that the Senate Special Committee on Aging will agree with us.

Our case is that the Administration on Aging continues to be oblivious to the level of needs and the continuing inadequacy of services and funding targeted toward a small target population of American Indian elders who are predominantly rural and isolated.

These people, these elders, are survivors under the most adverse conditions. Not expecting much out of life in a world whose policy framers ignore them, they do not seem to suffer frustration in their hardship; they just seem to accept that this is the way life is. But it should not be, that we will accept what they seem to impress us with, and this is the way it is. It does not have to be that way.

The mandate of the Older Americans Act suggests that in its declarations of objectives, which says:

> Of the governments of the United States and of the several States and their political subdivisions to assist our older people to secure equal opportunity to the full and free enjoyment of the following objectives in their itinerary.

The Older Americans Act is a compact that is being disregarded in its applicability to older Indians. Instead, we had to struggle with a system that was incompletely fashioned to meet one set of requirements for a tiny fraction of the entire aging population, and has not achieved the objectives that are mandated. Therefore, there is a need to establish in clear language a set of guidelines that will ensure proper and comprehensive delivery of services to this tiny fraction of the entire aging population.

We have a simple solution. Include language in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to fund title VI at a level of $12.5 million for fiscal year 1987; $17.5 million for fiscal year 1988; $20 million for fiscal year 1989.

Now, this is not enough, but we have always maintained in the surveys that we conducted that the figure that would be appropriate is $25 million. Well, we recognize the economic climate that exists now, and we believe that the Congress will be more receptive to those three figures that I have just quoted. This would enable title VI grantees to deliver more service to older Indians with specific targeting for those in greatest social and economic need.

Now, this is a hanging phrase that shows up in all State unit on aging plans and area agencies on aging plans and it is relatively meaningless. Once the facts are known, we believe that you will agree that our goal is reasonable and that the Senate Special Committee on Aging will work very closely with the Appropriations Committee to achieve this goal.

I noticed on reading the paper that you and Senator Boren had a great deal to do with advocating for the energy interests break and the tax reform plan. The article reads that Senator Boren along with Senator Nickles argue that the special exception for oil and gas interests is needed to save the industry from destruction. We propose that the Indian elder can be the same special exception, and we hope that our two Oklahoma Senators will bear that in mind as they pursue their work in the Senate.

And I also noticed that this may be possible, since Senator Don Nickles called on the Congress to provide an emergency $5.3 billion in supplemental appropriations for the Federal Farm Program.

So it is kind of hard for us to understand why all of these supplemental appropriations can be made, but when we start talking about more funding for our unserved Indian elders, we receive little or no response that gives any hope or promise that we are being heard.

I thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cleghorn follows:]

U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING FIELD HEARING
JUNE 28, 1986
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
"AN OVERVIEW" BY RUDY CLEGHORN

Honorable Senator Nickles, my name is Rudy Cleghorn, a member of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, National Title VI Grantees Association, Field Representative for the National Indian Council on Aging and Director of the Otoe Missouria Tribe Title VI Program. I welcome the opportunity to directly address you on behalf of the unserved and underserved older Indians in Oklahoma, the United States including Alaska Indian elders. First, permit me to dwell on the background etiology that led to this hearing today. The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging jelled into a cohesive organization that is known as an action oriented organization dedicated to attaining its goal and objective of bringing about improved and comprehensive services to older Indians. We traveled about the United States with our unique approach which endeavored to convince those in the aging network that we were delivering a message from older Indians pertaining to their needs and concerns. We presented ourselves as the voice of the older Indians. We were appointed by our Tribal leaders to be a voice of the older Indian and a specialist in the field on Indian aging. The words we speak reflect the spirit of the Indian elders, the words are not our personal words.

We knew from our dialogue with Indian aging advocates from the Pacific Northwest, Southwest, the North Central and from the Eastern regions of the United States that these advocates were also concerned about the unserved and underserved older American Indians. We recognize that we all shared a mutual concern but were not mutually cooperant; we were fragmented and we sensed that a vital component was missing - a component that consisted of an unfragmented and organized approach by which the energies of all forces were marshalled together to work toward achievement of common goals. Unified action would serve to dispel the stereotype of Indians not being able to get their act together. Being stereotyped has been detrimental to the American Indians in many facets during the past decades and centuries. Therefore, Senator, the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging set about to bring together these dedicated Indian Aging Advocates to organize a national organization of Title VI Grantees with a unified overall objective of working closely with the National Indian Council on Aging. This would further dispel the stereotype of disunity and would signify a clear message to all Indian Aging Advocates that these would be two organizations that would provide guidance and leadership. We determined that these two National Indian Aging Organizations would develop a coordinated Indian Aging network that would develop linkages with other state, regional, and national aging organizations. This would be following the guidelines that the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging had established as a part of its initiative which developed linkages with the American Association of Retired Persons, Southwest Society on Aging, American Society on Aging, National Council on Aging and Mid America Congress on Aging, the American Federation of the Blind, and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

An action step in this initiative occured in August 1985, when Paul Stabler, Steve Wilson, Jeannie Lunsford, Albin Leading Fox and myself traveled to the Annual Conference of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging and as a part of our agenda we scheduled meetings with the staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the Presdient of the American Association of Retired Persons, and with the Acting Commissioner of the Administration on Aging. As the voice of the Older Indian we expressed the concerns and needs to those in attendance at thse meetings.

The next action step taken by the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging was the scheduling of a meeting of people interested in concerns of Older Indians during the National Indian Health Board Conference in Alburquerque in November 1985. From that meeting of 21 interested people emerged a task force which included Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging. The duties of the task force was to develop and refine a constitution and by-laws for a National Organization of Title VI Grantees. The task force met in Albuquerque in January 1986 and accomplished this goal with the invaluable assistance and cooperation of Mr. Curtis Cook. Then the task force responded with positive enthusiasm to the opportunity to go to Washington to present testimony to the Federal Council on Aging at their quarterly meeting on February 25, 1986. Also, on February 26 members of the task force met with the staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging about the same topical concerns that were discussed with committee staff in August 1985 with more in depth focus given to the site and time for the Committee to hold a national hearing, and it was a consensus among all that the logical place would be in Washington, D.C. The task force also met with representatives of the National Council on Aging, American Association of Retired Persons, American Federation of the Blind, and the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging.

In March 1986, the task force convened Title VI Directors at the National Title VI Training Conference in Albuquerque and from that meeting emerged the formation of the National Association of Title VI Grantees.

In April 1986, Steve Wilson, Chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging; Georgette Brown, Vice Chairperson of the National Association of

Title VI Grantees; Mr. Paul Stabler from the Tulsa, Oklahoma Area Agency on Aging; and myself attended the Annual Conference of the National Council on Aging in Washington, D.C. and made presentations at workshops pertaining to the needs and concerns of Older Indians. While there we again met with the staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and the House Select Committeeon Aging and others with deep concern for Older Indians.

So, Senator, the cooperant initiative of dedicated Indian advocates who are guided by the spirit infused in them by the Indian Elder has impressed the staff of the Senate Special Committee on Aging with the firm belief that existing gaps and deficencies in the service delivery system are responsible for the Older Indian to be underserved. Senator, this has been a rewarding experience for me to work very closely with the dedicated advocates who are panel members today. As advocates we all believe in this appellate advocacy precept: "If you have the facts on your side, hammer the facts. If you have the law on your side, hammer the law. If you have neither the facts or the law, hammer the table." We assert that we have the facts because we know the Older Indian intimately. We have the law in the mandate of the Older Americans Act; of course, this mandate is ignored for if it were not we would be advocating so assiduously. Therefore, no one on the panels will hammer the table.

We have three panels to address three topical areas of concern. The topic area of availability of services consists of two out-of-state members and permit me to identify them. Dr. Barbara Yee is a developmental psychologist, formerly on the staff of the School of Human Development at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Yee will provide an analysis of the computer data which resulted from an elderly needs assessment of 813 older Indians in the United States. Thirty-three (33) Title VI Grantees participated in this survey which reflects valid and reliable trends. Then, we have Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging. Mr. Cook will comment on the trends of a survey which focused on decreasing funding levels of Title VI Grantees during the past three years and how this impacts on the targeting of services to older Indians who are already unserved and underserved. The third panel member is Oneida Samis, aging programs director for the Choctaw Nation. She is knowledgeable in this topical area.

The panel to comment on coordination of services between Title VI, Title III and the general aging service provider network consists of four (4) people. First, Betty White came all the way from the Yakima Nation in Toppenish, Washington. She has worked very closely with aging advocates in Oklahoma and with the National Indian Council on Aging. Betty is Chairperson of the National Association of Title VI Grantees. Sitting with her is Georgette Palmer Brown who is Vice Chairperson of the National Association of Title VI Grantees. She is director of the Title VI Project for the Western Delaware Tribe in Anadarko. The third panelist is Pat Woods from the Chickasaw Nation, Ada, Oklahoma. Pat is Vice Chairperson of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging. Far from least but last is Paul Stabler, Planner for the Tulsa Area Agency on Aging. Paul has been an avid and vocal supporter of Title VI for years and is practically a member of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging. He has been a member of the Oklahoma Minority Task Force on Aging since its formation in 1983.

The third panel consists of Jeannie Lunsford, Steve Wilson and myself. We will comment on the topical area of insensitivity of the Administration on Aging. Jeannie is here as a representative of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, and she formerly directed the Title VI Project for the Chickasaw Nation in Ada. Jeannie was selected by the Administration on Aging in 1983 to serve on a five member advisory board to provide input and suggestions for the evaluation of the Title VI Program; Betty White also served on that advisory board and both are aware of what the Title VI Evaluation Summary should have been. Steve Wilson, from the Creek Nation, is chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging and has directed social service programs for the Creek Nation for six years; he has many other affiliations which I will not mention.

Senator, by the time this hearing concludes, we will have thoroughly dwelled on the need for the human values represented by our position to be clearly understood. We will have presented the best case. We will have done the best we can in the amount of time allotted us. We will have explained why we feel the way we do and hope that the Senate Special Committee on Aging will agree with us. We hope that we have created a worthy emotional reason for the Senate Special on Aging to support our case. Our case is that the Administration on Aging continues to be oblivious to the level of need and the continuing inadequacy of services and funding "targeted" toward a small target population of American Indian elders who are predominantly rural and isolated. These are people who are survivors under the most adverse conditions. Not expecting much out of life in a world whose policy framers ignores, they do not seem to suffer frustration in their hardship; they just accept this as the way life is. The intent of the Older Americans Act under Title I - DECLARATIONS OF OBJECTIVES was a mandate "... of the governments of the United States and of the several

States and their political subdivisions to assist our older people to secure equal opportunity to the full and free enjoyment of the following objectives...." The Older Americans Act is a compact that is being disregarded in its applicability to older Indians. Instead, we struggle with a system that was incompletely fashioned to meet one set of requirements for a tiny fraction of the entire aging population and has not achieved the objectives that are mandated. Hence, there is a need to establish in clear language a set of guidelines that will insure proper comprehensive delivery of services to the tiny fraction of the entire aging population.

The solution is simply this: include language in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to fund Title VI at a level of $12,500,000 for FY-87; $17,500,000 for FY-88; 20,000,000 for FY-89. This will enable Title VI Grantees to properly deliver services to Older Indians with specific targeting to those in greatest social and economic need. Once the facts and figures are known we believe you will agree that our goal is reasonable and that the Senate Special Committee on Aging will work very closely with the Appropriations Committee to achieve this goal. Thank you.

Senator NICKLES. Rudy, thank you very much for your comment, and I appreciate your suggestions.

STATEMENT OF JOHN DIAZ, REGIONAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR, AOA REGION VI, DALLAS, TX

Mr. DIAZ. Thank you. It is a pleasure to be here this morning, and to be with distinguished panelists. There looks like we have a lot of heavy hitters here for you this morning.

But on behalf of the Administration on Aging, I wish to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today.

I am John Diaz, the Regional Program Director on Aging for Region VI in Dallas. I am here today representing Acting Commissioner on Aging Carol Fraser Fisk who sends her regrets and has asked that I deliver to the committee her testimony on the subject of the Older Americans Act Program, how they serve native Americans.

With your permission now, I will deliver Acting Commissioner Fisk's testimony at this time. Thank you.

I am pleased to offer testimony today to the Senate Special Committee on Aging on the subject of how Older Americans Act programs serve older native Americans. My remarks will focus primarily on the manner in which the resources made available under titles III, IV, and VI of the act contribute to enhancing the lives of older native Americans.

Before discussing these specific programs, however, permit me to make an introductory observation which I am sure applies with equal validity to Older Americans Act programs, as well as to programs and services provided under other Federal legislation. In an era of stringent economic constraints, we must each approach the issues of the day in new and creative ways. I believe that there are many challenges to be faced and opportunities to be seized which can further our primary goal to assure that all older persons, including all older native Americans, have access to needed services and, in particular, to assure that special efforts are made to serve those older persons who are vulnerable and in danger of losing their independence. The challenges and opportunities, in my view, confront all persons in all segments of our society.

Therefore, I am convinced that responding to the needs of the older persons, and in the context of today's hearing, responding to the needs of older native Americans, is a task which must be shared by both the public and private sectors; by Federal, State, local, and tribal governments; by private industry; and by older persons themselves and their families. I believe that there are signs of this acceptance of the challenges and opportunities of the times; and that we will continue to witness a growing sense of self-help and of mutual caring, as a significant adjunct to, not as a replacement for, the legitimate responsibilities of the public sector.

Let me turn now to a consideration of programs under the Older Americans Act which are the responsibility of the Administration on Aging. We have a tendency at times when thinking of services to older native Americans to restrict our thinking to title VI. We do well to remember, however, that older native Americans have always had the same rights to receive services under title III as other older persons. I realize there are many reasons why native Americans sought, and with the support of the Congress, obtained a separate title under the act devoted exclusively to serving older native Americans. I will discuss title VI in a few moments. But at this time I wish to share with you some data from the Title III Program as it applies to older native Americans.

During fiscal year 1985, 49,619 Indian elders received supportive services under title III-B; 30,000 received congregate meals under title III, part C-1; and 7,700 received home delivered meals under title III, part C-2.

The Older Americans Act directs that services are to be targeted toward those older persons in greatest economic or social need. As defined in the act, the term "greatest economic need" means the need resulting from an income level at or below the poverty threshold established by the Bureau of the Census. Greatest social need is defined as the need caused by noneconomic factors, which include physical or mental disabilities, language barriers, and cultural or social isolation, including that caused by racial or ethnic status. Therefore, to the extent that older native Americans are living in greatest economic or social need, as defined in the act, State and area agencies on aging should include them in their target population for the receipt of services; unless the tribal organization representing those older persons has elected to receive a title VI award. As you are aware, the act prohibits an older native American who receives services under title VI from also receiving title III services.

Title III also provides that Indian reservations may apply to the State Agency on Aging for designation as planning and services areas. At this time, several such planning and services areas, which have Indian Area Agencies on Aging, have been established. I will return to titles III and VI relations in a few moments. But for now let me proceed to title IV.

Title IV of the Older Americans Act has been used to provide significant support to activities which benefit older native Americans. Through title IV, the Administration on Aging for years has supported the National Indian Council on Aging. In addition, since the inception of title VI, the Administration on Aging each year has used title IV funds to provide training and technical assistance support to title VI grantees. Those funds, in each instance, have been awarded to organizations which have been Indian organizations. The current contractor is Native American Consultants, Inc., an Indian-owned firm, which provides training and technical assistance, including onsite visits, to title VI grantees across the Nation.

Finally, last year, the Administration on Aging set aside $2 million of title IV funds exclusively for grants to tribal organizations serving older native Americans under title VI. One hundred and four grants were awarded to foster education and training, planning and resource development, research and demonstrations, program coordination, and cooperative management.

Now, let me turn my remarks to title VI, which is the most familiar program for older native Americans under the Older Americans Act. Title VI came into existence with the 1978 amendments to the act, but funding for the program did not begin until 1980 when an appropriation of $6 million permitted the Administration on Aging to fund 85 grantees.

Title VI was amended again in 1981 and in 1984. The 1981 amendments provided greater flexibility to tribal organizations in the delivery of services, but otherwise retained the program as initially enacted. The 1984 amendments, however, made a significant change in the program by reducing from 75 to 60 the number of older native Americans which a tribal organization must represent to be eligible for title VI funding.

As mentioned above, at the time title VI was originally funded, $6 million was awarded to 85 grantees. Since that time, the program has received increased funding but, at the same time, there has been a great increase in the number of tribal organizations that have applied for and received title VI funds. Currently there are 124 title VI grantees, and we are in the process of reviewing applications from an additional number of organizations which we expect to fund this fiscal year.

Fiscal year 1986 funding for title VI is $7,177,500. The President's budget request for the program in fiscal year 1987 is $7.5 million, which is the amount originally appropriated for fiscal year 1986 before adjusting for the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings.

The most recent data which has been analyzed for the Title VI Program covers fiscal year 1984. The data reflect the following:

The program continues to maintain a very high participation rate. Of the eligible population of 18,927, 94 percent or 17,730 persons participated in nutrition services, and 69 percent, or 13,116 persons, received one or more supportive services.

Of the 17,730 older Indians participating in nutrition services, 69 percent received their meals in a congregate setting, and 31 percent received their meals at home.

The supportive services provided most frequently continue to be transportation and information and referral.

The program has been successful in attracting volunteers. Of the 730 persons involved in staff roles, more than 60 percent were volunteers.

The level of effort continues to be directed primarily toward nutrition services. About 61 percent of the tribes' total expenditures were for meals.

Before closing, I wish to return to the theme which I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks. As we look to the future and consider the needs of older native Americans, we must have a creative and broad view of how best to respond to meeting those needs. I have already stressed the importance of a strong public-private partnership. I would like to conclude with one additional thought and to use two examples of coordination between title III and title VI to illustrate my point.

If, in the long run, we are to improve the overall quality of life for older native Americans, we must view the task as much more complex than simply providing additional funding for services. We must look to the difficult, but essential, task of developing systems which function in an efficient collaborative manner. We must avoid duplication, fragmentation and inappropriate competition. The reality is that most of the systems which exist in the community to serve older native Americans are not funded through the Older Americans Act. Many programs are under Federal, State, or tribal authorities which currently serve, or have the capacity to serve, older native Americans, must be brought together into a well-functioning system of services for older native Americans. To accomplish this goal is the challenge which faces all of us.

Because of my belief that coordination of programs is essential if services are to be made truly accessible to older native Americans, I determined at the beginning of this year to involve our regional office staff to support the continued efforts of our central office in the Title VI Program. It was my considered judgment that the expertise which the regional staff has acquired over the years, not only in title III, but in other Federal and State programs, should be made available as a resource to title VI grantees.

Conversely, I believe that, through our regional office staff, State and area agencies could be made more sensitive to working closely with title VI grantees.

Recently, two examples have come to my attention which have served to encourage my belief that there exists a great potential for coordination between title III and title VI. As one effort to coordinate services, the United Sioux Tribes of South Dakota conducted three workshops to sensitize service providers on ways to positively accommodate the needs of older native Americans, and to encourage easier access for them to title III services. Following the workshops, the State Agency on Aging and the Sioux Nation Commission on Aging have begun to gather concerned organizations and individuals to form a task force to address the issues on a local basis.

The second example comes closer to home for those in attendance at this hearing. In an effort to bring title III and title VI closer together, the Oklahoma Special Unit on Aging involved title VI grantees in a statewide outreach workers conference. Title VI staff were involved in planning the conference, served on a panel in a workshop, and made a presentation at a cultural event. Fourteen Indians now serve as members of the Special Unit on Aging Minority Task Force. Also, the State Unit on Aging and area agencies in the State invite title VI staff to participate in no cost training events.

I offer these two examples of ways in which collaboration and mutual support in the interest of older native Americans can take place using available resources when there is an openness to look for new ways to do things, a creative freshness in looking at the challenges and opportunities which are before us.

Again, I thank the Senate Special Committee on Aging for this opportunity to present these remarks.

Thank you, sir.

Senator NICKLES. John, thank you very much for your statement.

Jeannie.

STATEMENT OF JEANNIE LUNSFORD, COMMISSIONER, OKLAHOMA INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION, THE CHICKASAW NATION, ADA, OK

Ms. **Lunsford**. I am Jeannie Lunsford. I am a commissioner on the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. Today I represent the commission. However, I really wear two hats today because I am the director of Direct Health Services for the Chickasaw Nation. I administer health care programs and services to Indian people in the Chickasaw Nation in our geographic area. I am very, very interested in the health care services also.

The Indian Affairs Commission has as a priority of service, the State's Indian elders. We fully support the efforts of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging in their efforts to advocate for the needs of the Indian elders.

Although funding has not allowed us to provide direct services to the State's Indian elders, we continue to provide and support the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Council on Aging by providing as much staff support as we possibly can.

In 1983, I served on the National Title VI Evaluations Committee. This committee was a committee requested by the Commissioner on Aging to evaluate the program and how effective title VI was and if it did, indeed, meet the intent of Congress. The result of this evaluation was not only did title VI meet the intent of Congress, but exceeded it. Recommendations were made at this time for additional funding, because of the overwhelming success of the program. Senator Nickles, you stated at the beginning of this program that you were interested in how title VI was working. I have for you today and I will submit to you an executive summary of the evaluation of the Title VI Program.

[The evaluation follows:]

Evaluation of the Title VI Program
Grants to Indian Tribes for
Nutritional and Supportive Services

Executive Summary

Contract No. 105-82-C-012

Prepared for

Office of Planning, Evaluation and Dissemination
Administration on Aging
330 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20201

Prepared by

Judy Lustig
Principal Investigator
Native American Consultants, Inc.
725 2nd Street, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

October 31, 1983

naci

I. INTRODUCTION

In October 1978 Congress enacted Title VI of the Older Americans Act. The Act mandates direct grants to eligible Indian tribal organizations to provide nutritional and supportive services to elderly Indians. Services under the program began October 1, 1980. Eighty-five grantees received awards ranging from $65,000 to $100,000. The program completed its third year (FY 1982) of operation with 83 grantees. The fourth year of operation began on October 3, 1983.

The objectives of the evaluation, conducted by Native American Consultants, Inc. (NACI) under Contract Number 105-82-C-012, were to determine to what extent the Act and its regulations have been implemented, to identify helps and hindrances to the program, to assess client and provider satisfaction, and to recommend improvements at project, tribal, and national levels of the program.

II. EVALUATION COMPONENTS AND METHODOLOGY

The evaluation design included a start-up period and two phases of analysis; a document review of existing materials relating to the Title VI program, and a case study of 12 representative grantees. During the start-up period

NACI and AoA selected an advisory committee for the evaluation and developed a detailed work plan and schedule. The advisory committee was selected from among those who would reflect both national and local interests and included Title VI directors from both federal reservation and non-reservation settings. Representatives from the Indian Health Service and the Administration for Native Americans were included on the committee because these agencies coordinate with Title VI programs on national and local levels.

During Phase I, NACI analyzed the Title VI legislation and regulations, AoA summary reports, and the grantee files maintained by the Office of State and Tribal Programs to obtain descriptive and quantitative information about the implementation and performance of the program. NACI selected a representative random sample of half the grantee files (43) for analysis. Both the sample of files and the case study sites were chosen to represent the geographic, cultural, and administrative variations of the grantees.

Phase II, the case study, was an investigative component which consisted of two sets of visits of six grantees each during the spring and summer of 1983. The format for the site visits included observations of Title VI program locations and activities, as well as interviews with the program director and other staff members, program participants, advisory committee members, and tribal executives.

Interview guides were developed for each of these groups. The final report combined data and findings from both phases of the evaluation.

III. TITLE VI LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Before Title VI was enacted tribes received Older Americans Act funds through state and local agencies. However, due to low funding levels and prejudice, elderly Indians were receiving neither an equitable nor adequate level of services to meet their needs, and Indian organizations lobbied for many years for direct funding to remedy these problems. The 1971 White House Conference on Aging Indian Concerns Session recommended direct funding of tribes so that they would no longer have to apply through unsympathetic state agencies for funding. Direct funding was also supported at subsequent conferences including a 1975 meeting at Arizona State University and the First National Indian Conference on Aging in 1976. The National Indian Council on Aging, an outgrowth of these meetings, continued the lobbying effort, succeeding with the establishment of Title VI in 1978.

Congress appropriated only six million dollars for Title VI programs in fiscal year 1980. The funding level remained at six million dollars for fiscal year 1981, and dropped to $5,735.000 for fiscal year 1982. Should the funding fall below five million dollars annually, tribal organizations are authorized to receive assistance in accordance with the provisions of Title III.

The components of the Title VI program and the requirements tribes must meet were originally laid out in the 1978 version of the Act and in regulations published July 18, 1980 by the Department of Health and Human Services. Title VI was amended in 1981 and proposed new regulations were published in the Federal Register on March 2, 1983 which stipulate tribal eligibility, application requirements, service requirements, and individual eligibility. Only federally recognized tribes are eligible to receive Title VI funds. A tribal organization must represent at least 75 Indians aged 60 or older. Small tribes may form joint organizations to meet this population requirement. Applications for Title VI funds must include: a description of the geographic boundaries of the proposed service area; the number of Indians to be served under the grant; a copy of the tribe's needs assessment; a description of the program and objectives; a staffing plan; a copy of any evaluation for the previous federal fiscal year; and the proposed budget. The original regulations also required grantees to establish an advisory committee. This stipulation was dropped in the proposed regulations.

The 1978 Act required grantee tribal organizations to provide assurances that nutrition, information and referral, legal and ombudsman services would be delivered to older Indians substantially in compliance with Title III. Legal and ombudsman services are not required by the current version of the Act. Originally, only individuals aged 60 or older were eligible for Title VI services. The tribes may now determine their own age requirement for older individuals receiving Title VI services. A tribal organization must assure that older Indians served under Title VI will not receive services under Title III, even if Title III is used to provide a different array of services.

NACI's review of the legislation and regulations provided a basis for the subsequent analysis of program performance and provider and client satisfaction with Title VI services.

IV. ESTABLISHING THE TITLE VI PROGRAM

Tribal organizations were required to submit data on the unmet needs of local Indian elderly with their applications. In fiscal year 1980 data was often drawn from surveys not specifically designed for Title VI, however, by fiscal year 1982 54 grantees had conducted specific assessments. In the case study the most frequently reported areas in which assistance continued to be needed were transportation, fuel availability and cost, in-home services, long term care, recreational activities, and home repairs. Other frequently mentioned areas of need were senior employment and renovation of senior center facilities.

Based on their knowledge of the characteristics and needs of the local elderly each Title VI grantee was required to establish a service area and a target population. By fiscal year 1981, all the Title VI grantees identified a service area. The majority provided services to elderly Indians in the entire area under tribal jurisdiction. Some tribes decreased their service areas due either to limitations on how many elders could be served effectively with the annual award or to the receipt of Title III funds. A smaller number of grantees cited the demand for aging services as a reason for increasing the service area.

Even though they had the option to lower the age requirement for Title VI services, about half the grantees did not do so primarily because they did not have enough funds to provide services to additional elders who would become eligible. Of the 43 tribes which lowered the age limit, the majority chose 55 because other tribal programs use that age for determining eligibility.

Although the population figures provided by the grantees were not always accurate or consistent, they provided some information on the relationship between the Title VI target population and the total elderly Indian population of the grantee tribes. During the first program year 11% of elderly Indians residing in tribal areas with Title VI projects were targeted for these services. Because of the ceiling on Title VI funds (the largest award was $100,000.00), small tribes with smaller numbers of elders were able to serve a much higher proportion of their elderly members than were the larger tribes. Therefore, the larger numbers of untargeted and unserved elders are residents of the more populous reservations.

V. FINDINGS

The major findings of this evaluation are presented here under the following headings:

- Have essential components of Title VI, as specified by the Older Americans Act and regulations, been implemented?
- What factors promote effective management of Title VI programs?
- Assess client and provider satisfaction.
- Compare Title VI and Title III services for elderly Indians.
- How effectively do Title VI programs coordinate with other tribal and non-tribal agencies?

Grantee Implementation of Title VI Services & Reporting

All of the grantees provide the required nutrition and information and referral services as well as a wide variety of optional services. Meals are usually served five days per week. Some grantees have utilized the option to provide meals less frequently at each meal site in order to provide services over a larger geographic area. The lack of restrictions on eligibility for home-delivered meals makes Title VI services accessible to elderly who would be otherwise excluded due to poor health, responsibility for the care of grandchildren, or lack of transportation. Home delivered meals are sometimes favored by grantees to avoid the extra mileage and gas costs incurred transporting elderly to and from the meal site. The Title VI meals have a major impact on the health and well being of the elderly. They are the only balanced meals many elderly eat. Congregate services have increased the social contacts of the elderly and reduced isolation and loneliness. Because of the extremely high rate of diabetes and hypertension among Indian elderly, cooks would like to provide special diets. Cooking without salt and serving fruit for dessert are generally the only provision made.

Information and referral services are more effective and frequent among tribal programs than between tribal and non-tribal agencies. Feedback from non-tribal agencies on the status of cases is rare. Many Title VI staff felt that providing formal I&R services in small face to face communities was unnecessary and that this service should receive less emphasis.

Title VI grantees provide a variety of optional services which address, to some extent, many needs of elderly Indians listed in national surveys and individual tribal assessments. Title VI programs often provide the only free or low-cost transportation for the elderly. The need for transportation services, however, is far greater than what Title VI programs can provide with limited funds. This is often the largest budget item after staff. A greater demand also exists for in-home services than Title VI can meet. Only a few programs provide assistance with wood chopping and hauling of water or fuel, although elderly at a number of tribes requested these services. Outreach services are not vigorous because grantees cannot afford the extra participants this would generate. Except through I&R, Title VI programs do not address housing and housing repair needs. A major gap in services at tribes is long-term care. Tribes do not have adequate resources to address this need. In some instances mental health is an unacknowledged service need of elderly Indians.

Title VI programs send quarterly financial and program reports to AoA, OHDS Grants and Contracts Management Division, and DFAFS. For meals, units of services are consistently and accurately counted. However, for information and referral, in-home services, and transportation, reporting methods are inconsistent. I&R is often undercounted. The cumulative reporting system requiring counts of persons and services to be added to previous figures causes confusion which simple alterations in the form would eliminate. From the information requested on AoA quarterly reports, it is not possible to compute the unduplicated number of persons benefiting from Title VI. Tribes now compute the cost per meal differently, making inter-program comparison impossible. Most accountants and bookkeepers are now satisfied with the advance system of Title VI disbursement of funds known as "draw-downs". USDA's slowness to reimburse for meal costs causes financial difficulties for some grantees.

Effective Management of the Title VI Programs

Many factors helped or hindered effective management of Title VI programs. The direct funding of Title VI to tribes and local planning and control are major factors in the program's success in addressing local situations and needs. The elderly view the tribal aging programs as their own. They are very reluctant to utilize non-tribal aging services.

Most grantees are individual tribes. During the site visits NACI observed no striking differences among Title VI programs operated by different tribal departments. Since the bureaucracies are not large, direct communication between the coordinators, directors, and tribal councils are not a problem. Consortia showed improvements in coordination from FY 1980 to FY 1983. Organizing and administering a consortia is sometimes difficult because decisions involve a number of tribes.

The availability of Title VI funds gave grantees the opportunity to hire full-time directors as well as full and part-time bookkeepers, cooks, and drivers. Adequate staffing permitted the coordination and expansion of aging services. Some grantees order food and supplies in bulk from wholesalers. Other grantees sponsor community gardens. Both are effective means of lowering raw food costs and obtaining quality foods. Where adequate funds are available to utilize a case management approach, the administration and tracking of services are streamlined. Some grantees have the resources to utilize computerized record-keeping systems. This makes reporting less burdensome and often more timely. Reports are more difficult to compile and file on time when they must pass through several tribal departments.

At many tribes the close coordination between Title VI and the Community Health Representative Program is cost effective. CHRs provide outreach, information and referral, and health education for Title VI. This allows Title VI staff to perform other services. Providing CHR services at the Title VI sites reduces transportation costs and community canvassing. Cuts in the CHR program adversely effect Title VI by reducing the manpower and scope of services available.

Active advisory committees are very helpful to Title VI staff. They assist with activity selection, scheduling, and fundraising. They help the program maintain a friendly atmosphere. However, if not closely managed and kept active and involved by Title VI staff, advisory committees can produce dissension in the program.

Tribal councils have been very supportive of the Title VI program. They provide substantial in-kind and financial contributions to the aging services. They approve and sign the applications for Title VI funding. The active support of the tribal councils contributes heavily to the program's success.

The Administration on Aging oversees the application process and program monitoring. Contact between project officers at AoA and Title VI programs is by phone and letters, almost exclusively to discuss problems regarding the accuracy or timeliness of reports and applications. Grantees would like more contact with AoA including a newsletter, more frequent calls from project officers to just see how the programs are progressing, and occasional site visits. Title VI staff prefer central administration to regionalization of Title VI.

Grantees are not required to provide information about the use of resources other than Title VI in their applications for funding. Therefore, NACI gathered additional information on this subject during the site visits. The combination of Title VI with other resources, such as tribal and senior employment programs, CETA, and the CHR program, leaves a greater proportion of Title VI dollars for the purchase of food and services. Volunteers, who are usually program participants, regularly do small jobs at the meal sites. State and county resources are often under-utilized by tribes due to long standing prejudice and the lack of linkages.

Most of the grantees NACI visited found all of the methods through which ACKCO provided T/TA helpful. Technical assistance has improved the grantees' proposal writing, financial management, record-keeping, and menu planning. Grantees also utilized some other providers of T/TA for assistance with information and referral services and nutrition services.

Client and Provider Satisfaction

The elderly appreciate the Title VI services. Title VI provides services to some locations where no aging programs were available previously. Since the establishment of Title VI programs, the elderly are out of their homes more frequently and also visit each other more often. They are satisfied to know that the food they receive is good for their health. The Title VI services help the elderly manage on extremely tight budgets. For some elderly, this can make the difference between having adequate heat and food in the winter or doing without these necessities. The inclusion of traditional foods, crafts, and trips to local tribes personalizes the programs. Some barriers to the elderly's participation in congregate meal programs include small facilities, the poor condition of roads and vans, and responsibility for the care of grandchildren. The cost of buying meals for grandchildren is a barrier for some participants. The elderly would like more trips and other activities at the meal sites. The men would like activities designed especially for them and workshops with tools. The elderly would also like more employment opportunities through Green Thumb, Action, Title VI, and other sources to help reduce financial strain.

Directors find the Title VI regulations flexible and have no difficulties with them. Staff of Title VI programs and tribal executives would like to provide more comprehensive services to the elderly than is possible at current Title VI funding levels. In-home services, including homemaker, friendly visiting, and chore services, is a major gap the tribes would like to address.

Title III and Title VI Services

The grantees visited preferred Title VI over Title III because the regulations are less restrictive and because Title VI is directly funded to the tribes by the federal government. Tribes originally expected the funding level for Title VI to be sufficient to provide for all aging services. However, the present funding level is not generally adequate to provide comprehensive services to all the areas within a tribe's jurisdiction. Therefore, some tribes also operate Title III programs.

For the most part tribes which operate both Title VI and Title III programs have solved record-keeping problems. However, the dual funding sources present other difficulties. There have been tensions when some tribes provided different service in the Title III and VI areas or when non-Indians received different services than Indians from the tribe. The quality of the relationships between the tribes and states varied widely. Some relationships are positive and productive while others are negative. The presence of an active statewide Indian aging organization helps to build relationships. Reductions in the weight given to minorities in state allocation formulas will have the long-term effect of seriously reducing resources and options available to Indian aging programs.

Effectiveness of Coordination

Tribal programs coordinated more effectively with each other than with non-tribal programs. This observation is not surprising, since tribal programs all operate within the same government structure. Some tribal executives stated that coordination between Title VI sites and other tribal programs could be improved. The geographic distance between the programs and different reporting requirements were considered barriers to better coordination. The utilization of standard eligibility requirements, such as age, and standard reporting forms enhances coordination within a tribe. Title VI programs coordinate most closely with health and employment programs. Referrals are also often made to housing or social services. Tribes often lack effective links to state and county agencies. They are often not informed, therefore, about workshops and services from which they might benefit.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) services which are not contracted to tribes under P.L. 93-638 are here considered non-tribal programs. The BIA is chiefly responsible for land management and tribal enrollment and has little involvement in services for the elderly. Indian Health Service provides primary and emergency services, having reduced drastically other types of services such as the provision of eyeglasses and dentures. There is a need at the tribal level for comprehensive health services from preventive measures to long-term care. Local coordination of aging, health, housing, and other services for the elderly would be improved by the formulation of a national policy on Indian aging.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the evaluation NACI suggests the following recommendations to improve the Title VI program at project, tribal and national levels.

- Title VI programs should incorporate special diets into nutrition services because of the high incidence of diabetes and hypertension among Indian elderly. Educational materials and instruction should be provided to help elderly accept diet changes.
- On-site training should include instruction for cooks in menu planning and special diet preparation. Regional trainings include this type of information, however, most tribes' budgets are not adequate to send staff other than the director to distant training locations.

- Title VI should continue providing unrestricted home delivered meals. These meals have made the program more accessible to the elderly.
- The Administration on Aging should work out a procedure for Title VI to provide free or low cost meals for dependent grandchildren so that elderly with childcare responsibilities can participate in congregate meals.
- Tribes should be informed about opportunities for senior employment through Title V and Action programs. More positions should be allotted to tribes.
- Information and referral services are currently undercounted. If the Administration on Aging continues to require this service, a consistent, workable definition of I&R needs to be developed by the Administration on Aging and other government agencies. A simple method for recording this service should be developed and disseminated to grantees.
- A consistent method of counting in-home and transportation services should be developed by the Administration on Aging and utilized by grantees.
- The Administration on Aging should revise the quarterly program report form to include service figures for each quarter as well as cumulative figures.

- A uniform method for costing meals should be developed by the Administration on Aging and utilized by grantees.
- Records of the training and technical assistance provided by ACKCO are incomplete in the grantee files maintained by the Office of State and Tribal Programs. The Administration on Aging should include in these grantee files at least a complete list of the dates of service and the types of assistance provided.
- The Administration on Aging Title VI Project Officers should make at least annual site visits to grantees to become familiar with Title VI staffs and programs. If this is not possible, project officers should attend the regional trainings for the grantees they work with.
- The Administration on Aging Title VI Project Officers should call the grantees more regularly to see how programs are progressing and to inform program directors about regulatory or administrative changes.
- The Administration on Aging should include tribal input in decisions about regulations and administration of Title VI programs.

- The Administration on Aging should produce and disseminate a newsletter for grantees which includes current information on legislation, regulations, administration, application procedures, and Title VI program accomplishments.
- The Administration on Aging should suggest that grantees provide a narrative quarterly report of program status and accomplishments to give a better picture of program status.
- The Administration on Aging should continue the central administration of Title VI.
- **The staff of the Office of State and Tribal Programs at the Administration on Aging should include at least one Indian professional who is familiar with tribal aging programs.**
- Training and Technical Assistance should include separate training for old and new directors, additional training of Title VI supportive staff, and training in identifying and utilizing local resources. Information and training on the complete legislative and regulatory process would also be useful.
- If the Administration on Aging decides to encourage the development of consortia in order to include more small tribes in the Title VI program, technical assistance should be provided to them regarding the establishment and operation of this type of organization.

- A national policy on Indian aging should be formulated by AoA, IHS, BIA, ANA, HUD, and other appropriate agencies and organizations. Such a policy would further both national and local service coordination.
- **If the Administration on Aging envisions Title VI to be a comprehensive program in either the number of tribes receiving Title VI funds or the extent of services offered to elderly Indians by the grantees, a higher funding level is needed.**

The goals of the Title VI evaluation were to determine how completely the components of the program have been implemented, to identify and examine factors which helped or hindered effective management, to assess client and provider satisfaction, to compare Title VI and Title III services for elderly Indians, and to examine the coordination between Title VI programs and other tribal and non-tribal agencies.

According to the elderly and the tribal grantees, Title VI services have improved the health of the elderly, increased their sense of well-being, reduced social isolation, and eased financial strain to some extent. Grantees preferred Title VI over Title III because it is less restrictive and directly funded to tribes, but since Title VI is not presently funded at a level adequate to cover all the services or all the target populations of the current

grantees, tribes wish to develop other local resources, including Title III. Because Title VI has been beneficial for the 83 grantees, there is support for the development of a comprehensive program in both the number of tribes funded and the range of services provided.

This evaluation found that Title VI is meeting the objectives of the current legislation and regulations, and that the Administration on Aging and the grantees are pleased with the progress of the program and the services provided.

Ms. **Lunsford**. I also would like to say that this is the executive summary, but I have three other full—very big reports if you are interested, for more detailed information.

On page 17 of this report begins the recommendations. Through these recommendations, as they are very in depth, I will read the last final paragraph of this evaluation.

> This evaluation found that title VI is meeting the objectives of the current legislation and regulations, and that the Administration on Aging and the grantees are pleased with the progress of the program and the services provided.

Through this executive summary, as you will see, there were many other recommendations that were made. We have never had a response concerning the recommendations. We have requested a response from the Administration on Aging.

Traditionally, Indian people look toward the Tribal Governments for social services. Entrance into non-Indian nutrition programs has not met the nutritional and social needs of the Indian elders in Oklahoma. Attached also to my prepared statement is a list indicating the number of elderly Indians being served by Title III Nutrition Programs. This report was prepared for the American Association of Retired Persons. This is a minority participation in the Older Americans Act Program. I will submit this to you today.

As you read through this, you will see that the native Americans and the Alaska Natives are the very lowest percent receiving services in title III programs.

[Report follows:]

AARP

May 28, 1985

Mr. Rudolph Cleghorn
P.O. Box 68
Red Rock, OK 74651

Dear Mr. Cleghorn:

We share your concern about the need to ensure that older Indians are served more effectively and equitably under Titles III and VI of the Older Americans Act. You have made a very strong and convincing case.

Cy Brickfield recently wrote Acting Commissioner Fisk to energize the Administration on Aging to be more responsive to the needs of older Indians. Enclosed is a copy of the letter. We shall keep you informed about AoA's response and follow-up actions to implement the Title IV report language for minority initiatives in the Fiscal Year 1985 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act.

Federal Affairs staff recently obtained data about minority participation in Older Americans Act programs and the number of minority employees working for state and area agencies on aging. This information was obtained from the AoA staff. The figures are based upon actual counts as well as estimates. The totals may be somewhat inflated. However, they provide a useful barometer for determining whether older Indians and other aged minorities are equitably served by the Older Americans Act.

Thanks again for sharing your thoughtful comments with us. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

John C. Rother
Associate Director
Division of Legislation
Research & Public Policy

AARP

May 28, 1985

The Honorable Carol Fraser Fisk
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Aging
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 4760
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 29291

Carol,
Dear C~~ommissioner Fisk~~:

The American Association of Retired Persons is deeply concerned about the substantially higher level of poverty among aged minorities. One of the most economically deprived groups in our society today is the older Indian. By any barometer one would choose to use, elderly Indians have a lower quality of life than other aged groups. Older Indians are more than twice as likely to be poor as other aged Americans. In 1980, 30.3 percent of all Indians 60 years or older were poor, compared to 13.5 percent for all elderly individuals.

The 1982 Civil Rights Commission report and earlier equity studies have all concluded that more vigorous efforts are needed to serve older minorities more equitably and effectively. This is particularly true for older Indians, who have frequently been overlooked or largely ignored by services programs.

Our analysis reveals that older Indians often have unique or more intense problems than other aged groups. Therefore, special efforts are necessary to assure that more low-income older Indians receive supportive and nutrition services under Titles III and VI of the Older Americans Act.

The Fiscal Year 1985 Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act (Public Law 98-619) provided a $2.825 million increase for Title IV research, training, and demonstrations, from $22.175 million to $25 million. The Senate report called upon the Administration on Aging to use this increased appropriation to provide additional funding for several activities, including new initiatives to serve aged minorities more effectively and equitably.

We would urge AoA to follow this recommendation and to develop special efforts to test out approaches to increase participation in Title III and VI services programs by older Indians.

We would appreciate hearing from you concerning AoA's plans to implement this report language as well as other initiatives to assure that elderly Indians are equitably served under the Older Americans Act.

Sincerely,

Cy Brickfield

Cyril F. Brickfield

MINORITY PARTICIPATION IN OLDER AMERICANS ACT PROGRAMS

Persons Receiving Title III-B Supportive Services (In Thousands) in FY 1984

	Number	Percent
Total	9,126	100.0%
Minorities	1,598	17.9
Asians/Pacific Islanders	133	1.5
Blacks	1,034	11.3
Hispanics	371	4.1
Native Americans & Alaskan Natives	58	0.6

Note: Figures may not add because of rounding.

Persons Receiving Title III-C Congregate Meals (In Thousands) in FY 1984

	Number	Percent
Total	2,919	100.0%
Minorities	496	17.0
Asians/Pacific Islanders	44	1.5
Blacks	306	10.5
Hispanics	121	4.1
Native Americans & Alaskan Natives	26	0.9

Note: Figures may not add because of rounding.

Persons Receiving Title III-C Home-Delivered Meals (In Thousands) in FY 1984

	Number	Percent
Total	611	100.0%
Minorities	114	18.7
Asians/Pacific Islanders	5	0.8
Blacks	75	12.3
Hispanics	24	3.9
Native Americans & Alaskan Natives	11	1.8

Note: Figures may not add because of rounding.

MINORITIES EMPLOYED BY STATE AND AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

Professional Employees for State Units on Aging in FY 1984

	Number	Percent
Total	1,319	100.0%
Minorities	255	19.3
Asians/Pacific Islanders	63	4.8
Blacks	133	10.1
Hispanics	55	4.2
Native Americans & Alaskan Natives	4	0.3

Clerical Employees for State Units on Aging in FY 1984

	Number	Percent
Total	443	100.0%
Minorities	124	28.0
Asians/Pacific Islanders	16	3.6
Blacks	78	17.6
Hispanics	25	5.6
Native Americans & Alaskan Natives	5	1.1

Employment for Area Agencies on Aging in FY 1984

	Number	Percent
Total	11,330	100.0%
Minorities	2,781	24.5
Asians/Pacific Islanders	204	1.8
Blacks	1,529	13.5
Hispanics	937	8.3
Native Americans & Alaskan Natives	111	1.0

Older Indians Receiving Services the Title VI Grants to Indian Tribes Program in FY 1984

Supportive Services	12,373
Congregate Meals	12,943
Home-Delivered Meals	5,570

Ms. LUNSFORD. In a meeting in August 1985, with Commissioner Fisk, with members of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, and myself, as Rudy began his presentation, he did tell you that Rudy and Steve Wilson and myself met with the Commissioner on Aging. We asked at that time for a response back to the title VI evaluation report and what had happened to it. We did this in our efforts in tribal health programs and tribal social programs to be able to respond back and to the needs of the Indian elders in the small communities of countless cities in which we serve the Indian elders. The lack of participation in the title III nutrition programs, the limited number of title VI nutrition programs, and now an even more devastating proposed regulation affecting our elderly Indians is that of the proposed blood quantum issue for health services that affects our elderly Indians.

If passed, this will eliminate the elderly Indians from health services for those of less than one-fourth degree of Indian blood. In addition, elderly Indians now living in a city exceeding 10,000 population are not eligible to receive USDA donated food from tribal food distribution programs.

Senator NICKLES. Would you state that again?

Ms. LUNSFORD. In addition, Indian elders living in a city that exceeds 10,000 population are not eligible to receive USDA donated food from tribal food distribution programs. For, you see, there is a regulation that prohibits any Indian person living in a city that exceeds 10,000 population from receiving USDA donated food. Tribal programs administer food distribution programs—food commodities.

So many elderly Indians move in from rural areas into cities to be able to be close to the Indian Health Service and to tribal health care facilities.

It is inconceivable for me to believe that a government as strong as our Government, a Government that is so responsive to needs of foreign governments, allows our elderly people to live in poverty, and now be denied the very needed service of nutritional, social programs, USDA donated food in those cities that exceed 10,000 population, and now to propose regulations for those people with less than a fourth degree of Indian blood, health services.

The Administration on Aging is the agency designated for the administration of programs to our elderly. To me it has given me a feeling of insensitivity to the elderly Indians.

That concludes my report. I thank you for this opportunity.

Senator NICKLES. Ms. Lunsford, thank you very much for your statement and also for your expertise in this area. I will come back to all our panelists. First I want to hear from Steve Wilson representing the Creek Nation.

STATEMENT OF STEVE WILSON, THE CREEK NATION, OKMULGEE, OK

Mr. WILSON. Senator, I thank you for this opportunity that you have given us here today.

As manager of the Community Research and Development Administration for the Muscogee Creek Nation, and for the past 2½ years chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, over the past 2 years, 2½ years, we immediately realized that there was a lot of education that has to be provided to the aging network, not only in Washington and all over the United States, but even here in Oklahoma, although we do have 11 area Agencies on Aging.

We, as Indian service providers, realized that our people were not being served under title III. Instead of us going in town and raising all kinds of cain, we felt that maybe we could go out and educate and show the people the needs of our Indian people.

This led us to Washington, DC, and to a meeting with the Commissioner on Aging, who refused to see us at first until Mr. Diaz intervened for us. And after the meeting with the Commissioner Fisk, we realized right then that we were not going to be the No. 1 in her mind. And her attitude, the attitudes of the administration since that time because of the cuts in the funding levels rumbles that we were receiving.

There are a lot of areas that I wanted to cover, that I could cover, the coordination of services, the availability of services, and all of these things that are lacking in the aging network for the Indian elderly to provide services. And when we have an administration that is insensitive to the needs of our people and to the programs that we administer, these statistics that are given to you are great. But we have got to realize that those are Indian programs that are provided those services. And if it was not for those title VI programs, that these Indian people, Indian elderly would not be served today.

The amendments to the Older Americans Act, became a part of it all, because our Indian people were not being served. We fought for this amendment and we got it. Today, the millions of dollars that are going into State and area agencies are not being filtered down to the tribal governments and to the Indian people, they still are not getting to us after all these years.

The law became effective, I believe, in 1965.

Where is our visible and effective advocate? Do we have one? Does the administration and the White House have so much power over these people that they cannot ask and will not ask for the moneys provided even basic services that our people deserve.

Many times, our Indian people, and this happened today, are dying in our country without receiving these basic services.

I could give you stories here in Oklahoma alone that would prove these out.

When we were in Washington, DC, in August of last year for a nationalist meeting, the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging put on a presentation. We called it More than Bows and Arrows. We have taken this presentation from San Antonio to Little Rock, Kansas City, Washington now. And we felt that maybe here we could have an impact on a large number of service providers in the aging network.

And as I stated in my testimony, they could only sympathize with us. They could only say we will try to support you. But the people that could say we will do it were not there, the Commissioner was not there, her staff was there but they are on the same boat. They cannot say we will give you this, we can do this for you. They can only sympathize also. The Commissioner was not there. And we were in her backyard.

While we were in Washington at this same time, this is when we met with her. When she refused to meet with us, this kind of set us back because we had been working for 2 years, going to meetings, putting on workshops, trying to educate the aging network. And we felt we had reached the top, we were going to meet with the Commissioner, she will listen to us, she will hear of our problems, she will hear of our frustrations, she will listen to our recommendations. No, she did not want to meet with us. And after the meeting with her, we were still 2 years behind.

In Orlando, FL, former Commissioner Tolliver got up and spoke for 20 minutes on the services that are provided under the Older Americans Act. She did not mention title VI. People that were at the conference were asking me as an Indian what are you doing here, what is title VI? These were Federal program people representing Federal agencies that did not know what title VI was.

I got up and asked the Commissioner to explain what title VI is—that I was not there to educate all those people and would she please do it?

These are the types of things that we have run into over the years. When we talk about coordination of services, it seems like it needs to be done at the Federal level also. If we can do it here, it needs to be done there first.

Now, I want to speak on the Federal Council on Aging. And it states in the law that the Federal Council on Aging shall advise and assist the President on matters relating to the special needs of older Americans. This again is disheartening when you make a presentation, you have traveled many miles and worked hard for a presentation to be made, two or three will sleep through the meeting.

We need people on these commissions, we need people on these councils that are going to be sensitive, and that is going to care. We do not want to go up and see people sleeping through them. And I realize that the President and these people are the ones that appoint these people. We need also the recommendations from the Indian country for these positions. Because we feel that they are our own people who would understand us. And this is where we come to the issue—"Indian Desk."

Commissioner Tolliver said she would have one. And we had made recommendations who that person could be. But Ms. Tolliver is gone and Carol Fisk is there, and there is nothing going to happen.

We were told that Associate Commissioner Suzuki would draft a program. He was the Indian desk. Mr. Suzuki is a fine gentleman but he is not an Indian. We feel that an American Indian that understands the functions of our tribal governments, that understands our Indian people, that understands our Indian ways should be this person. But until that person is given to us in that position, we will always, and I state quote here, we will continue to quote the law and ask where is our effective and visible advocate?

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Wilson follows:]

Tribal Welfare Assistance
· Elderly Nutrition Program
Indian Child Welfare Program
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Economic Development
Community Development

Creek Nation
Office of the Administration
Division of Community Services
Community Research & Development Administration

IN REPLY REFERENCE:

Testimony submitted by Steve Wilson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Chairperson, Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging

SENATE SPECIAL UNIT ON AGING - INDIAN ELDERLY ISSUES
JUNE 28, 1986
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

I am Steve Wilson, Manager of Community Research and Development Administration for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, under which one of the programs I administer is the Elderly Nutrition and Elderly Welfare Assistance. I am presently Chairperson of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging.

Honorable Senator Nickles: I am honored today to present testimony on behalf of the Elderly of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and as Chairperson of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging. I also want to thank you for conducting this hearing in Oklahoma, since we have more Title VI Grantees (23) than any other State. We look at these programs in Oklahoma as the best, considering the token funding received by these Tribal governments administering them. But because of cuts in our funding, these programs are facing problems this next fiscal year.

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First, I want to give full support of testimony submitted by my other colleagues on the issues they have commented on or will comment on at this hearing because we are all facing the same problems.

SENSITIVITY OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

On page three (3) Title II, Section 202(a) of the Older American's Act of 1965, as AMENDED, the functions of the Commissioner on Aging states, and I quote: "It shall be the duty and function of the administration to --

> (1) Serve as the effective and visable advocate for the elderly within the Department of Health and Human Services and with other departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the federal government by maintaining active review and commenting responsibilities over all federal policies affecting the elderly:

Since the Amendment to the Older American's Act in 1979 which was Title VI, Direct Grants to Tribes, we felt we had seen a big positive change in the federal government and our legislative bodies to recognize the unique needs of the Indian elderly. Funding for this program started FY 1980 with 83 tribes receiving grants to administer Title VI. We had high hopes of seeing nutrition programs springing up all over Indian Country that could and would serve our elderly. Our hopes were immediately dashed when our funding levels were not adequate and were slashed. Where was our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

In October, 1985, I attended a conference in Orlando, Florida, on Transportation that was jointly conducted by the Administration on Aging and Department of Transportation. Former Commissioner on Aging, Lennie-Marie Tolliver, addressed the conference on what services the Administration on Aging was and could provide under the Older American's Act. In her presentation of over twenty (20) minutes, she talked of all the TITLES under the Older American's Act, except Title VI. Where was our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

In March, 1984, at Tulsa, Oklahoma, the Fifth National Indian Conference on Aging was held to develop a policy on Indian Aging. Over 700 people from all over the United States was in attendance to have input into what we felt would be a giant step forward on alleviating problems facing our elderly. In July, 1984, this policy was submitted to the Administration on Aging for their review and implementation. As of this date, the Administration on Aging has not acted positive on this policy. Where is our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging has adopted its own policy when addressing the Commissioner on Aging. This policy being that we would send copies of letters and resolutions every 45 days until we got an ANSWER because of the Administration on Aging's unwillingness to respond to our correspondence. The only explanation by the Administration on Aging was, "I guess it got lost in the shuffle"! Where is our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

For the first time ever, Title VI grantees were given the opportunity to apply for Title IV of the Older American's Act Training, Research and Discretionary Projects and Programs. We all received approximately $20,000. each for our programs. These funds have been very beneficial in providing training to our staff and Title VI Directors. We now understand that for next fiscal year, the Title VI grantees are not going to be allowed to apply for this money under Title IV of the Older American's Act. As tribal governments we should have as much right to these monies as state agencies. Where is our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

In August, 1985, members of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging attended the National Area Agency on Aging/National Association of State Units on Aging in Washingt, D.C. We also presented our workshop "More than Bows and Arrows", to the aging network. We felt we could have an impact on these people when we presented our views on the issues facing our Indian Elderly. The participants that attended our workshop could only be sympathetic to our cause since they were service providers like us and did not set policy. The Commissioner did not ATTEND --- Where is our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

While in Washington during this period, the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging had set an appointment with the Commissioner. We arrived for the appointment early and was told she did not want to meet with us, but to meet with Mr. Suzuki, Associate

Commissioner. I told her secretary that if I had wanted to meet with Mr. Suzuki, I would have asked for him. We started to leave until, John Diaz, Region VI Director intervened for us and talked her into meeting with us. All our frustrations and problems were presented to her. Her attitude of "having" to meet with us was very evident and we felt we did not have an "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

It became disheartening to us to learn that the one person that could have an impact on our programs did not seem to care about them. It was then that we started addressing our problems to Senator Heinz, Chairman of the Senate Special Unit on Aging. We also met with one of your aides, Mr. ~~Nichols~~ NICKLES, after learning that you had just recently been appointed to this committee. We feel we have more confidence in getting things done through our legislatures than going to the Administration on Aging.

In February of this year, members of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, Curtis Cook, Executive Director, National Indian Council on Aging, Washington State and New Mexico State Representatives addressed the Federal Council on Aging to also bring forth the issues and problems we are facing today and the new future. Two or three members of the Federal Council on Aging slept through this presentation. According to the Older American's Act, Section 204,d(1), the Federal Council on Aging shall:

> (1) advise and assist the President on matters relating to the special needs of Older American's...

We are waiting to see if anything is recommended by this Council to the President.

In March of this year, Title VI grantees gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for training. At the Conference. Mr. Suzuki, Associate Commissioner addressed the Title VI Directors by stating, "I have come to have dialogue with you. I have made several recommendations that will help your programs". When asked by several of us what those recommendations were, he could not and would not tell us.

Mr. Nickles, we have seen some of the policies and attitudes shown by the Administration on Aging toward our programs. We have seen cuts in our funding levels that have hurt our programs and services to our people. How can we trust them who say they have made recommendations that would help us, but can not tell us what those recommendations are?

His statement at this conference about our funding cuts would mean "Only 15 less meals per day to your program". In every case, these "15 less meals" are elderly people not being served. Where is our "effective and visible ADVOCATE"?

Today, as I address you, we are facing cuts for next fiscal year. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation's funding for next year starting in October has been cut another $6,000. Our funding levels do not permit us to cut budget line items such as administrative travel, capitol expenditures, etc., because we do not receive enough monies to have these line items in our budgets. When we receive funding cuts, it means direct services being denied to our elderly. According to the Older American's Act, Section 603. "The Commissioner may make grants to eligible tribal organizations to pay all of the cost for delivery of supportive services and nutritional services for Older Indians". We are waiting for the law to be upheld.

We have addressed the Indian Desk Issue for a period of time now and former Commissioner Tolliver commented she would have one. We felt an American Indian from a federally recognized tribe would be appropriate. We need someone that will understand the uniqueness of our elderly and help our programs by making recommendations that would help us instead of making policy changes that have been made in the past that have crippled our programs to the extent that we are barely able to provide services at all. We have yet to see this position come about.

By the testimony presented, you can see, we need this position so that our programs can be saved. We need that person to have a first-hand knowledge of the tribal governments functions and the way of our Indian people. Until this position is permitted and an American Indian placed in that position (with authority), we will continue to quote the law and ask, "WHERE IS OUR EFFECTIVE AND VISIBLE ADVOCATE"?

Senator NICKLES. Thank you very much.

I appreciate your comments, Mr. Wilson.

I am going to ask all of our panelists some questions.

First, Mr. Diaz, how much money nationwide goes under title III and how much money presently goes under title VI?

Mr. DIAZ. Under title VI, it is $7,177,500. I do not have the exact figure for title III, Senator.

Senator NICKLES. But is not title III over a billion dollars?

Mr. DIAZ. All told, it is not totally administered by the Administration on Aging. Part of that is title V which is included in that figure, and is administered by the Department of Labor, the Senior Community Services Program.

But 350 some odd million I think. Between title III and title IV, the total amount administered by the Administration on Aging is something over 800 million actually.

Senator NICKLES. And that is primarily for the—the bulk of that money for meals, community service home meals?

Mr. DIAZ. Of that, the largest percentage is under title III C-1 and C-2, which is the constant meals, the home delivered meals.

Senator NICKLES. Thank you.

We have heard from three of our panelists, and correct me if I am wrong, the thrust of it being that if Oklahoma Indians native Americans are just under title III that the services are not getting there. Is that correct? Is that a good summation of what I have heard from our three panelists?

Mr. DIAZ. Yes, sir.

Senator NICKLES. The services are not getting there, they were not getting there, so title VI was put in.

When was title VI amendment added, 1980?

Mr. WILSON. 1978.

Senator NICKLES. 1978. But it was not funded until 1980, is that correct?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, sir.

Senator NICKLES. So you can have an amendment in there and be authorized, but if you do not have any funding on it, it does not mean anything.

So, anyway, it started in 1980 and it started about a $6 million program and now it is about a $7 million program so it has been fairly level funding for the last few years with small increments.

Title VI is about a $7 million program, whereas, the balance of the act is, if you add all the titles, either administered together, BOL and aging would be over $1 billion. So we are talking about less than 1 percent—correct me if I am wrong—that would be applicable to title VI.

Is that correct. If you are talking about $1 billion, or if you are talking about $700 million, whichever, I am not quarreling with those, how you break out which titles.

But, Bill, basically you are talking about the total authorization under the Older Americans Act as being over $1 billion. We are talking about $7 million or $7.5 million. I notice that 1 percent of $1 billion is approximately $10 million. So we are less than 1 percent for title VI.

Native Americans should be able to apply and should be able to receive assistance under title III. Evidently from a lot of our people that work with it, and I think that is the reason why we are having this hearing, a lot of people say, Don, why are you having this hearing? The reason is I have traveled around the State and I have worked with a lot of our people, and they come up and say, well, this program is not working or it is not getting done.

And you know a lot of times, we in Congress, in the Senate or the House appropriate so many millions or billions of dollars. They become big figures but you do not—until they get down to the people if it is helping the Choctaws, or if it is helping the cause—is the money actually getting there and helping the people? And that is the kind of question I have.

Is title III really getting down and helping some of the Indian elders of our State and Nation?

Why was it necessary? Why did it not get down and help those people we are trying to help?

Mr. CLEGHORN. I was going to respond to those percentage figures by saying that we challenged them and sent the challenge to the Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging for evaluation. And he prepared a four-page dissertation of those percentages, which was a part of his testimony given to the Federal Council on Aging, and which is included in the material that Perry Cain has.

I will not belabor that point except to say that when we received it and discussed it that it just simply did not make sense. It is totally blown out of proportion. So, somewhere along the line, the Commissioner on Aging is receiving some kind of statistics that does not make sense to us. This is why we asked for comments on it, and Mr. Cook did a very good job of commenting on it.

And I might say—I am going to divert from the question—there was a strategy behind us going to see the Commissioner on Aging, and also a strategy behind going to the Federal Council on Aging. Those two agencies represent title II of the Old Americans Act which closes the door on the applicability of title I—declaration of objectives—to the older American Indian. We found AOA unresponsive and made no inroad in our position that the mandate of the Older Americans Act was ignored, and in February 1986 we presented our concerns to the Federal Council on Aging, but none of us experienced any degree of confidence that FCOA really understood our position.

However, the Federal Council will not submit a report to the President and to the Congress until March 31, 1987, and therefore we do not know if they will be any more responsive than AOA. Before we appealed to the Congress to hold hearings we wanted the record to show that we had been before the administration's two focal points on aging, both pledged to being supportive of the President's priorities. We have had an uphill battle all the way, and the only recourse we have is to impress upon the Congress of a need for legislation that will hold someone accountable.

Later on, when you get into the topic of the Indian desk, if you wish to come back to that, I have some material which reflects that this topic should be pursued by Senator Bingaman who had the door slammed in his face and I would like to briefly alert you as to why. But I will stop and let somebody else talk.

Senator NICKLES. I appreciate your comment.

We have heard several complaints, Mr. Diaz, and if nothing else, I want you to make sure that you heard that complaint too.

One is on the Indian desk, and two is the lack of willingness by the Acting Administrator to meet, communicate and cooperate.

When we have officials that run, work and administer these programs, and they desire to meet with Commissioner Fisk, I do not understand why she would not meet with them and why the Administration on Aging was not more responsive to hearing some of the problems that the native Americans are having in our State. And again, when we are talking about total amount of funds of a $1 billion nationwide and of that only $7 million applying to American Indians. I am kind of bothered by this lack of communication and cooperation.

I think that Mr. Wilson pointed this out rather graphically. I do not want to see us in an adversarial role. I want to see us say wait a minute, let us take a look at these programs, and if there is something not working, let us try and work together and make improvements.

Mr. DIAZ. The only thing I can say at this time is when that meeting—referred to by Mr. Wilson—was set up with Acting Commissioner Fisk, I think that she had recently been appointed. I do not know whether she had adequate time to be prepared. I think that in the meeting, Commissioner Fisk said the letters had not got to her attention, they may have been held by staff since they were sent to the previous Commissioner, or something of that nature. But I do not think she was aware of some of these things that were brought to her attention.

I happened to be in on that meeting at the same time, but I do not really know what else to say about that.

Senator NICKLES. Well, we appreciate your cooperation with us in working on it.

Let me ask you another question. What about the issue of an Indian desk? We have had that request. I have been supportive of that effort. It seems to me like it could help maybe alleviate some of the problems that we have had and that we have heard of today. Where do we stand on that request?

Mr. DIAZ. Well, at this point in time, there are two individuals working full time in Washington on the Title VI Program although they themselves are not native Americans. They are in the Office of State and Tribal Programs, under Mr. Suzuki.

We have in our region, since the Commissioner has asked the Federal Regional Offices to work with the programs, a person in our office that works full time. This region has around 31 percent of the title VI grants.

Mr. Gary Kodaseet, who is from Oklahoma, is appointed to work on these programs full time in this region. We have around 39 of the 120 grants. There had been an attempt, at one time, to bring him into the central office of AOA, and he himself, was interested in locating closer to the Oklahoma area. So we were able to arrange to help him get back to this area. It was anticipated that he would be able to work with a larger number of title VI grantees. Decisions made in the regional office have now made it possible for Mr. Kodaseet to work full time on the Title VI Program.

Senator NICKLES. Well, I would hope that we would get that desk and we would have it to where we would have access for tribal leaders and others who want to work with these programs.

You know, I found a lot of cases where we have had leaders that are interested in implementing programs and they have good ideas that can save a lot of money. If we work with them, and not be in any of an adversarial role, we can save some money and improve the quality of services.

I heard the statement that Jeannie Lunsford just mentioned that what the commodity programs would not be applicable for tribal distribution for towns over the size of 10,000. I am going to look into that a little bit more. I am interested in learning more about that.

So do you want to go a step further?

Ms. LUNSFORD. I just want to make one more statement, Senator Nickles.

We work in tribal programs and with tribal governments, and in the city that our tribal headquarters is located, Ada, OK, we are unable to provide this service to the Indian people.

Senator NICKLES. So if you step outside and go further out in the county or something, then you could?

Ms. LUNSFORD. Yes, into the rural areas of less than 10,000, we can provide that service.

Senator NICKLES. So then you would have to have a lot of the Indians in Ada would have to drive out so far, is that right?

Ms. LUNSFORD. No, they cannot receive it.

Senator NICKLES. They cannot?

Ms. LUNSFORD. If they are living within the city limits, they cannot participate in the program.

Senator NICKLES. So basically they are just penalized for living within the city limits?

Ms. LUNSFORD. Yes, many of them are older, there is an Indian hospital located there. They move into cities to get the health services.

Senator NICKLES. But they would not receive any commodities?

Ms. LUNSFORD. No.

Senator NICKLES. Whereas, somebody that maybe lives 20 miles out——

Ms. LUNSFORD. They would be eligible, if they are eligible for the program.

Senator NICKLES. So, you know, it is a shame to change the eligibility requirements. You are basically the same. We should not have that restriction of the town size of 10,000.

Ms. LUNSFORD. Yes; we should not have that restriction.

Senator NICKLES. What about Okmulgee?

Mr. WILSON. It is the same situation, Senator.

We have asked that this law be changed over the years.

Senator NICKLES. Is that a statute or is it an administrative ruling?

Mr. WILSON. It is in the statute. It has to come through, I say the legislative people to make that change.

It is not only Okmulgee, but Muskogee, Sand Springs, Sapulpa, Broken Arrow, and Tulsa. So you take in Okmulgee along with 116 at the other housing projects that we have to serve—back when we built, we asked the city to zone it into that city limits so we could use the water and sewer from the city. Now we are being penalized for this.

And 10,000 of these people are, like we said, are close to services of the Creek Nation.

Senator NICKLES. Right.

Mr. WILSON. Now they are being penalized.

Senator NICKLES. Just because of that restriction?

Mr. WILSON. That restriction.

We feel that the Indian people would receive commodities before they would food stamps.

Senator NICKLES. Commodities a lot of times are cheaper than food stamps. Is that not correct?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, sir, I get more.

Senator NICKLES. More of the basics?

Mr. WILSON. I would estimate close to 125, let us say we serve Okmulgee alone, approximately 90 elderly that we can qualify proper for this program.

Senator NICKLES. Let me ask another question. I am going to pursue that further. Perry has told me that that would take less effort. So we might look at that. So that is one fruitful thing that has come out of this hearing.

I also heard, Rudy, your comment and that your real request was for the title VI provision, that that would go from what, 6 or 7.5 million up to what, 12, 17 and then 20. So you are talking about increasing it two or three times in the next couple of years.

It is still, as a percentage of the total amount of money that is coming out of a $1 billion program, it is still a very small percentage. Yet we are still talking about a significant part of the senior citizens, at least in our State.

So you are basically saying, if I hear you, that out of over a $1 billion program, we would like to see that go from about $7.5 up to $20 million to provide the services for the elderly Indian population.

Mr. CLEGHORN. I also said it would not be enough in the current economic climate, but we had a better chance to get the lower funding level than the figure of $25 million which has been our assessment for the last 6 years.

Senator NICKLES. Are the services better or just more direct, because you go to title VI instead of title III?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, sir. I believe that the Indian programs can cater to the special needs of the Indian population.

You asked a question awhile ago "why is title III not getting out to the Indian people?" I will give you one example. This happened in a location in our great Nation.

The lady had an operation, her husband had an operation. Therefore she could not cook, she could not get around. So I made a call to the title III staff to deliver meals to her. They said, well, we will have to go take an application. Three days later, they finally get there with the application. They tell her you will have to pay for these meals. As soon as you get well, let us know so we can take you off the program.

Now, that is the attitude, you know, that our people face in trying to receive those services. That was my mom and dad that that referred to.

Jeannie, do you want to add?

Ms. LUNSFORD. Yes. In the Tribal Administered Nutrition Program, we cater to the special needs of the Indian elderly. We even have a traditional Indian food that we serve. That is the greatest part about the Title VI Program, that it allows us to meet the special needs of the Indian elderly.

We think it is good because we think it is the best there is, and we are very, very proud of the program. I feel very, very guilty, Senator Nickles, that we cannot provide this kind of service throughout our area that we serve. Because this is one program, this is one program that you can look and see what it is doing in a short amount of time.

Many times you work with programs, and it is over a long period of time that you see progress, or success. This is something you can look at every day and you can see the progress that is being made.

Senator NICKLES. How many tribes in Oklahoma are using it?

Ms. LUNSFORD. The Title VI Program?

Senator NICKLES. Yes. Is it 23?

Ms. LUNSFORD. Twenty-three.

Senator NICKLES. How many tribes, 30?

Mr. CLEGHORN. Thirty-six.

Mr. WILSON. Some are like, you know, tribal organizations like Anadarko—I think there might be a consortium there.

Senator NICKLES. So you might have two or three tribes participating out of the same program?

Mr. WILSON. Yes, sir.

Senator NICKLES. If that makes sense, I am all for it.

One other question. There was an amendment that reduced the number of participants that required participants to be at least 75 and now it is 60. Is 60 an appropriate level? Should Congress look at that? Does that make sense to have that cut off?

Mr. CLEGHORN. Well, it enables the smaller tribes to be able to qualify.

Senator NICKLES. OK.

Mr. CLEGHORN. Before the meeting is over, I would like to return to that Indian desk. For there is something very significant that you should be familiar with.

Senator NICKLES. OK.

Mr. CLEGHORN. I know it is material that you have that. Do you want me to do it now?

Senator NICKLES. Now, I do have that in your statement.

So thank you very much.

We are going to ask our next panel to come, if they would.

Paul Stabler, executive coordinator for Tulsa Area Agency on Aging, will speak first.

Paul.

STATEMENT OF PAUL STABLER, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR, TULSA AREA AGENCY ON AGING, TULSA, OK

Mr. STABLER. Thank you, Senator Nickles, and the distinguished members of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

My name is Paul Stabler. I am a planner with the Tulsa Area Agency on Aging, a position I have held for the last 13 years. During the past 2 years, I have had the opportunity to assist the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, and traveled with them as they presented workshops throughout the country on behalf of the Indian elderly and title VI.

It is an honor for me to be able to present testimony today on behalf of the Indian elderly.

I want to make a reference here on the act that has been repeated before, but I feel like I need to do it again.

Section 305 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 provides assurances that preferences will be given to providing services to older individuals with the greatest economic or social need, with particular attention to low income minority individuals. It also says and include proposed methods of carrying out the preference in the plan. It further states that the term "greatest social need" means the need resulting from an income level at or below the poverty threshold established by the Bureau of Census; and the term "greatest social need" means the need caused by non-economic factors which include physical and mental disabilities, language barriers, and cultural or social isolation, including that caused by racial or ethnic status which restricts an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks.

Title VI of the Older Americans Act is one of the proposed methods designed to reach a portion of the minority elderly, in this case the Indian elderly.

However, one of the application requirements in the title VI regulations, part 1328.19, paragraph (d)(1), states "A tribal organization has methods and procedures to ensure that older Indians represented under the grant do not receive services under part 1321 for the period of the grant." Part 1321 is the regulations for title III programs.

Furthermore, section 602 of the Older Americans Act lists as an eligibility requirement "individuals to be served by tribal organization will not receive for the year for which application under this title is made, services under title III."

It seems that every person in the aging network, or at least most of them, seem to be aware of these facts, whether they have read the title VI regulations or not, concerning the restriction of Indian title VI participants being eligible for title III services. Many believe that if you are an Indian, you either have your own program or you are not eligible for title III services irregardless of where you live. In many instances, the title III versus title VI ruling has created an atmosphere where either cooperation or coordination between the two is almost impossible to achieve.

How do you achieve coordination between the title VI and title III programs? This would seem to be an ideal situation, to see title VI programs and title III programs coordinating and pooling their resources in order to enhance the quality of life for many elderly persons throughout the country, both Indian and non-Indian.

This coordination which requires adequate services available to the elderly Indians by pilot State programs is not taking place in real life. To the extent described on paper, it has improved but not to a desired level.

If you ask an area or State agency staff person, in most cases, ask the question of the person who operates the Title VI Program in their county, chances are they will not know the name of the person, the staff person, or the location, or the number served on the program. I do not think this is intentional, I think it is more a lack of concern.

The first recommendation for coordination would be to change the law to allow title VI programs to utilize supportive services, such as transportation, outreach, home health, homemaker services, jobs programs, and other services available under title III. The level of funding for title VI programs is not sufficient to provide these essential supportive services, particularly after a congregate nutrition program is implemented and staffed. Title III nutrition programs receive funding, both State and Federal, for these essential supportive services, all of which increase the probability for a successful program.

The coordination between titles III and VI can take many forms. First, there is a need for quality training which would improve the service delivery system. Training is an essential part of any program. The better the training, the better the performance. Even a national championship football team has to train 365 days of the year just to stay on top.

Second, there is a need for technical assistance that is available on a regular basis, and whenever the need arises.

Third, a third form would be the availability of supportive services to title VI Indian participants, as mentioned earlier.

Fourth, there should be opportunities for each program to be involved in an exchange of ideas, both professionally and culturally. There is a need to understand the needs and the culture of the Indian people, particularly by those who make decisions that affect them.

Fifth, the employment and/or appointment of Indians on aging network staffs and advisory boards with decisionmaking responsibilities would be a major step. This should be implemented at the Federal, at the regional, State, and the area levels in order to ensure improved coordination efforts.

Any coordination to be successful has to begin somewhere. It is my personal belief that it must start at the top, with the Administration on Aging. If they do not allow coordination, or if they do not advocate strongly for coordination to take place between title III and title VI, then it will not. There is a need for the development of written working agreements and coordination efforts between the aging networking, the regional offices, the Administration on Aging, State offices, and area agencies, between the Indian agencies, Indian tribes and the title VI grantees. If these things can be accomplished, then I think we could see programs and services for both Indians and non-Indians that truly enhance the quality of their lives.

In closing, I feel I have to say something more about the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging. I heard reference to the other organizations throughout the country earlier in this testimony in this meeting. And I see there are several members here today giving testimony from the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging.

The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging gave many people in many States a closer look at the older Indians by making presentations to anyone who would listen. It is a slow but effective process that they have, but it is one that they will continue to do whenever the opportunity presents itself. They have opened many doors and minds of those who have heard the Indian story presented by Indians.

This concludes my presentation.

Senator NICKLES. Well, thank you very much for your statement.

STATEMENT OF PAT WOODS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE CHICKASAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, ADA, OK

Ms. WOODS. Thank you, Senator Nickles.

I bring you greetings from the great unconquered and unconquerable Chickasaws. And also I am here as a representative of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, as well as the Chickasaw Nation. I am also a member of the National Indian Council on Aging.

Because most Indian tribes throughout the United States put a priority on their elders, they think they should be treated with respect and dignity, as they are the last to ask for anything. And so it is up to others, and especially the tribes to look out for their welfare. That is why I join with the others in what they have previously testified. I will not go back into what they have said.

But I do believe that one of the reasons that the Indian elders do not receive services from the Title III Program is miscommunication—I want to make a qualified statement here.

The people that work in the Administration on Aging, including Carol Fisk, and especially John Diaz and the others that work on a local level, I am not saying that the people there do not care about our Indian elders. It is just that they are restrained by resources, they have a lot of things they have to do also. But I feel because they are aware we are fewer in number, that maybe we are not a priority. To tribes, our elders are a priority. So they do advocate for them, and that is why we feel like we should receive a better agency endeavor from the Administration on Aging.

Our people do not seek out title III programs. They look to the tribe for their services. And the only thing I can tell you, I have worked with the tribe for 14 years, and I have worked out in the field among the Indian elders. They go to the tribe and look to the tribe because they feel more comfortable in receiving their services there. They feel like it is the tribe's responsibility.

That is why the tribes are successful in these title VI programs. Now I would like to address my subject on coordination.

There is a miscommunication among the agencies on aging. And I feel like most of it is because of this regulation, which I will hand to you, where it says if you receive title VI funds, you cannot participate in the Title III Program.

This regulation, I guess, is to keep out a duplication of services.

Under title VI we received $65,000 in the first year, and I am sure all the other tribes did too. We did not receive a lot of money. We have an 11½-county area we serve. We have one tiny spot, in Ada, OK. I will say we have made effective use with the money that we had. We have a very successful program. A lot of our seniors are here today to support us in giving this testimony.

We make our money go a long way. And if you remember in what John Diaz said, that from Carol Fisk's report, she said 60 percent of the staff are volunteers. Our program, if we did not have volunteers, we could not make it. We do not have enough money.

Many of the title III people in all of the areas believe because we have this one small spot in Ada, that they should not try to get the Indian people who live in Pauls Valley, OK, to participate in their program. They do not believe they should make an effort to try to get the Indian people involved. And it is not because they do not care about people, and that they have a vendetta against the title VI people. It is just because they have read this regulation and felt that the Indians have a program and they do not have to worry about them.

They do not realize that we do not have the resources to have but one small program.

I also would like to reiterate that we do need more funds. As you said, only 1 percent of the money for the whole administration on aging goes to title VI programs. If we had the resources, the tribes could make very good use of that money.

It is like Jeannie Lunsford said, this program, you can look out and you can see how the program has contributed to changes in people's lives. We have one lady, that was in very ill health, and she even had to be on oxygen. We got her involved in their social activities and the nutrition program. She is no longer using supplement oxygen. The best part of our program is getting the people together and getting them involved in doing things together, in feeling useful, feeling like they are a part of the community, and that they are needed, and they are. They are a very useful, viable part of the Indian community, and most especially of Oklahoma.

That is what I see, that our programs do a lot for the Indian people. They get them involved and help them feel useful again.

I would just like to go on and say again that I do support the testimony that Curtis Cook is going to give, because he is the executive director of the National Indian Council on Aging. Also all the reports being given from the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging. We have worked very hard to bring this before you because we feel like we need help. You know, the Government is always making special supplemental appropriations for special causes, and it is very frustrating to hear on the news about all these hundreds of millions of dollars that go to foreign countries and we cannot get any money here. That is wrong.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Woods follows:]

SERVICE COORDINATION

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, Senator Nickles and other Senate Committee and staff. My name is Pat Woods, Administrative Officer of the Chickasaw Nation.

First, I want to state that as a member of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging and the Chickasaw Nation, I support the testimony presented by Curtis Cook, Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging. As you may or may not know, NICOA was instrumental in getting Title VI legislation passed. I am also a member of the NICOA.

There are many Older Americans Act funded programs located within the State of Oklahoma. There are 11 Area Agencies, 23 Title VI grantees and of course, the Special Unit on Aging. However, from the Title VI prospective, there seems to be very little service coordination in existance.

For an example, the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging met on May 22, 1986, a Special Unit on Aging staff person was present at the meeting. During the course of the meeting the subject was directed to how coordination of services between Title III and Title VI could be implemented were it not for the regulations that prevents Title III from providing services to Title VI participants.

A discussion ensued which leads us to believe the philosophy of the Special Unit on Aging is that if a Title VI program exists anywhere within an Area Agency on Aging's planning and service area, then, Indian elders are specifically excluded from Title III-C services. We were informed by the Special Unit on Aging representative that "all minorities were encouraged to participate in Title III-C programs, except Indians."

This philosophy concerns us greatly. Although, we may have a Title VI site located within an Area Agency's planning and service area, we do not have the resources available to provide services to all eligible participants. In fact, just the opposite is true. To be eligible for Title VI, the participants must reside within a specifically designated area. Our funding level allows us to serve a very limited number of those eligible. There is apparently a lack of knowledge about how Title VI operates among State Aging staff.

Services under Title VI began October 1, 1980, with an appropriation of $6,000,000. Eighty-five tribes were funded in amounts of $65,000 to $100,000.

During FY 1985, funding for Title VI was increased from $5.735 million to $7.5 million. At the same time, the number of Title VI grantees increased from 83 to 125. The results being a 31% increase in overall funding and a 51% increase in grantees. Consequently, many programs have suffered significant budget reductions.

This "increase" resulted in a $10,000 loss for my tribe. The effect of the loss was the closing of one nutrition site.

Again, during the FY 1986 funding period, ten new grantees will receive Title VI grants. This, along with Gramm-Rudman, has resulted in another $5,600 loss in funding; a 15.6 decrease in one year. An increase or an alternative method of funding must be implemented for we are being cut out of existence.

In the State of Oklahoma, monies are appropriated annually which are designated for aging programs. Every AOA funded program in the state receives some of the state monies, except Title VI grantees.

We have applied for a portion of these monies time and again but to no avail. We are so accustomed to being refused that we have just about given up on pursuits of obtaining these monies. This is but one other area that has a closed door for Indian tribes when trying to improve, expand, or maintain a status quo of services.

Another area of concern is the mandate that requires Indian tribes to include in their Title VI applications for funding, an assurance that Title VI participants will not also receive Title III services. If Title VI were properly funded, this would theoretically be a good requirement. However, in reality, Title VI is not funded sufficiently to provide a comprehensive program. A duplication does not exist if a Title III program provides a Title VI participant transportation to the Title VI nutrition site if Title VI does not have a transportation component in their program.

I believe the Special Unit on Aging and Area Agencies have a misconception if they believe that Title VI is funded to the extent that along with meals, transportation, senior center activities, outreach, legal and ombudsman services are also provided. These areas are where Title III and Title VI could coordinate if it were not for the previously mentioned mandate. Just because a tribe receives Title VI monies does not mean that the funding is sufficient to provide transportation and other supportive services, but we are treated as if we have adequate financial support.

We must continue efforts to educate the Administration on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, and Special Units on Aging to effect legislative changes which will allow coordination between Title III and Title VI programs.

Last year the Acting Commissioner on Aging set aside $2,000,000 from Title IV of the Older Americans Act for Indian Tribes to use for travel and training funds. Each tribe received $20,000 for which we are very grateful. We were informed that this was a "one time only" event, yet it is my understanding that the State Unit on Aging receives training funds on an annual basis. The state must use these funds to provide in-service training opportunities for personnel of agencies and programs under the Act. However, Title VI grantees are not included in these training events.

The Special Unit on Aging sponsored, for the first time, a Statewide Minority Task Force Meeting on March 6th and 7th, 1986. This was the first time the Title VI grantees were included in a state sponsored training event.

If we are excluded from applying for Title IV funds in the future, our program staff will be unable to attend training. Because of the numerous budget cuts we've undergone the past year, travel monies are practically non-existent.

Nutritional services for the Indian elders carries a very high priority among the tribes and tribal organizations because of the incidence of diabetes mellitus. The average white American has one chance in 20 to develop diabetes; an American Indian has one chance in four. In 1971, there were 55,000 outpatient visits to Indian Health Service clinics nationwide for diabetes; in 1983 there were 154,000.

Doctors are encouraging that diabetics to watch their diet to keep blood sugar within normal bounds. Prescribing a strict diet and exercise is one thing, having it followed is another. The Title VI staff plans meals which are low in sodium and sugar content. The meals provide 1/3 of the daily recommended dietary allowances established by the Food & Nutriton Board of the National Academy of Science National Research Council.

In addition to a well-balanced meal, staff has implemented a daily exercise routine in which approximately 30 elders participate. There are 12 who participate in daily walking exercises in the gym.

The Chickasaw Nation Senior Citizens formed a kitchen band in 1983 and began singing gospel music and other songs that were popular during their youth. The group has grown into a 28 member singing and dancing band which performs for other senior citizens programs, nursing homes and civic organizations. Shows are designed to fit the particular occasion for which they are performing.

The nutrition program, kitchen band, socialization and physical activities have brought about enormous changes in the lives of the elders. We have seen one lady who was using oxygen on a daily basis completely discontinue its use and a gentleman who was to shy to converse with others, singing solos. The whole well-being of the elders has noticeably improved. It is amazing to see the impact the Title VI Program has had on the lives of participants; their confidence and vitality is displayed daily.

We feel a great responsibility to our elders. We feel they should have the same services provided to them as their non-Indian counter parts.

Senator NICKLES. I agree with you.

Let me ask you a question. I am just wondering how the program works for the Chickasaw Nation. You have a program in Ada, you have lunches every day, five times a week or every other day?

Ms. WOODS. Yes, we do. And we serve—we take meals out to our homebound, and by using commodity food that you can receive in lieu of cash, we are able to stretch our food dollars. We have a small sized van and we transport the food three times a week to Sulphur, OK. We have volunteers——

Senator NICKLES. Hot meals?

Ms. WOODS. Yes. We make a lot of use of our money. You would not believe what——

Senator NICKLES. How many people do you serve a day?

Ms. WOODS. I believe we serve on an average of 70 people a day. And then we have home delivered meals to around 50.

Senator NICKLES. Is that right? So you are talking about 120 people.

A lot of those people are senior citizens and——

Ms. WOODS. They are 60 years of age and above. They are Indian or their spouse is an Indian to receive services.

Senator NICKLES. You mentioned one of the benefits besides having a nutritious meal, but it is a fact that some of the Indian senior citizens, they get together and have——

Ms. WOODS. We have a Chickasaw cat band, a kitchen band, and they travel to nursing homes and put on programs. They get a feeling of usefulness because they see that they have provided inspiration to these people for a few minutes. Very often, they have been requested to go to civic organizations and appear at nursing homes and other places. It makes them feel good. And we have one man, he's a full-blood Chickasaw, he sings a solo usually with our kitchen band. Before then, he was not able to do that, to have the socialization that he has now.

Senator NICKLES. I need to proceed to Betty White. You get the award for coming the farthest, from the State of Washington. We appreciate you joining us, and please proceed.

STATEMENT OF ELIZABETH WHITE, PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE YAKIMA INDIAN NATION AREA AGENCY ON AGING AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TITLE VI GRANTEES AND INDIAN AREA AGENCIES ON AGING, TOPPENISH, WA

Ms. WHITE. First of all to you, Hon. Senator Don Nickles, and to your esteemed colleagues, a good morning.

My name is Elizabeth White, and I am program manager of the Yakima Indian Nation Area Agency on Aging, one of eight Indian Area Agencies across the United States. And I am the chairperson for the newly organized National Association of Title VI Grantees and Indian Area Agencies on Aging.

I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present to you the concerns of the title VI grantees. My topic is coordination and the negative impact it has on the Indian elderly.

The first and foremost concern of title VI participants is a section in the Federal Register, which everyone has elaborated on, long overlapping between titles III and VI of the Older Americans

Act. The applicant must assure that individuals to be served by a tribal organization will not receive services under title III for the period for which application under this title is made. And due to the many budget cuts of title VI, many grantees are finding it necessary to delete supportive services and are able only to provide nutritional services on a minimal basis.

Because of these cuts, not only to the Administration on Aging, but through other Federal programs, such as Indian Health Service, and the decrease in funding of community health representatives, it is found that many title VI grantees are aggrieved because they have depended very heavily upon community health representatives to provide consultation, first services, home delivery of meals.

It is no wonder that title III funds, a great many services that our Indian elderly who receive title VI cannot participate in and cannot benefit from. This all goes to the adult day care, home health services, minor home repairs. But because it is title III funds, the Indian elderly are not able to participate in those programs.

The long overlapping of title III and title VI should be amended to allow title VI participants to be able to receive services under title III. Title VI should be acted upon by Congress which would enable the grantees under title VI to increase the supportive services to Indian elderly.

A recent statement made by the President of the United States leads me to think that there is no coordination at the top where it counts. Here is the President's statement. This was taken out of the paper:

> It is difficult to believe that people are starving in this country because food is available. I think that in many instances the people just don't know where or how to go about it. I find it difficult also to find any cases of starvation and malnourishment.

Many people have been trying to get this information across, but without success. The Indian elderly live on fixed incomes, and with inflation as it is, they have money for the bare necessities and have to make a choice between eating or keeping warm. That is not a choice that I would want to make.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services—this was taken out of the paper too—the Secretary of Health and Human Services says he knows of no human suffering caused by the Reagan administration budget cuts in social programs. But adds that if it is occurring, it is my duty to try to correct the situation.

Here before you is some evidence of suffering and pain caused by these budget cuts. Someone needs to correct that situation.

Now, this is a statement that I took from another hearing. A statement that reads, the topic was "Long-Term Care, Public Policy Issues, Their Impact on Health and Social Services for Elderly Indians." This was in Tucson, AZ, May 25, 1984.

> Because of the critical role that the older tribal members play in the day-to-day life of the Yakima Nation, we are extremely concerned with providing the best and most effective service to each and every one of them. Unfortunately, our goal of providing these critically needed services has been severely inhibited by a total lack of coordination on the part of various Federal agencies, unclear and cumbersome Federal regulations, and a severe shortage of funds. Therefore it is felt that local coordi-

nation of aging, health, housing and other services for the elderly would be improved by the formulation of a national policy on Indian aging.

In summarizing the need for a more effective coordination, both on a national and local level, that the following recommendations should be considered. And I am very sure that anyone of us who presented testimony here today would be more than glad to coordinate their efforts with you to work on these recommendations if you should so see fit.

No. 1, a national policy on Indian agency to be formulated by the Administration on Aging, Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, AMA, HUD, and other appropriate agencies and national organizations such as the National Indian Council on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the National Association of title VI Grantees and Indian Area Agencies on Aging.

No. 2, revise regulations to allow titles III and VI to be coordinated. Amendments to the Older Americans Act should include inputs from title VI grantees and their respective tribal governments.

No. 3, legislatively mandated Indian debts within the Administration on Aging for the purpose of coordinating the flow of Federal funds directly to Indian tribes.

No. 4, in order for title VI grantees to improve their coordination efforts in other programming on the still local, State and national levels, they must receive the proper training and technical assistance. To do so, they must be allowed to apply for title IV funds which is the coordinated discretionary funds. We understand that as it is now, we are not able to apply for title IV funding.

No. 5, more input within title VI funding should be increased to allow title VI grantees to provide the needed services for their Indian elderly.

This is the end of my presentation, and I would like to thank you for allowing me to be here, and I would mostly like to say thank you to the Indian elderly that are sitting back here. Their presence here is more than what we can say.

Senator NICKLES. Betty, thank you very much. I would echo that. I am impressed that anybody would show up for a hearing on a Saturday morning, and I think it shows that there are a lot of people who are very concerned about improving the quality of Indian health care and Indian services.

Now, Paul, I just make a mention. You worked with the Title III Program, is that correct?

Mr. STABLER. Yes.

Senator NICKLES. And you mentioned about the need to coordinate better between title III and title VI. A person that is receiving title VI cannot receive title III, that in many areas where a Title III Program, or a program that is administered to everyone in larger communities where an Indian may be almost discriminated against because of the presumption that they are already covered under a Title VI Program which, in many cases, maybe they are, but in a lot of cases they are not.

Is that correct?

Ms. WHITE. Yes.

Senator NICKLES. Just real quickly, how can we ensure if you have, let us say, an Indian in Ada, OK, where they have a fixed program so they would have those services, would they have all the services? Does the Chickasaws, do they provide all the services that would be provided for the Title III Program?

Ms. Woods. No. We are only able to provide—we do have a transportation service right there in Ada, but we do not have any in the other site.

Senator Nickles. OK.

Ms. Woods. And money, we do not have resources to do that. We were cutting them this year.

Senator Nickles. So you would have a situation where they could receive their meals and so on, but possibly not transportation and some of the other services.

Ms. Woods. That is right. We would like to be able to coordinate these services and let them receive the title III transportation.

Senator Nickles. They are not interested. In other words, what you are saying, we are not interested in having two meals, that is not going to be used or——

Ms. Woods. That is what I said. There is no way that the services are going to be duplicated. But, because of this regulation, it prohibits. I think it is just a barrier there.

Senator Nickles. I understand.

Well, we can work and see if we cannot make some improvements on that. I think I understand the reason why it was put in there, but I can see the complications they are causing the administrators of the programs, and maybe again if we could have an Indian desk working with the agency, that may help to work out some of these. We want to provide these services for all Americans, whether they be Indian Americans or other Americans. We want to provide the service for all Americans. And certainly we should not be discriminating one way or the other.

So, again, I am going to continue pushing for the Indian desk and I appreciate the comments of this panel.

Curtis Cook, we welcome you and compliment you for some of the fine work that you have done on behalf of the National Indian Committee on Aging; Oneida Samis from the Choctaw Nation; and Dr. Barbara Yee.

Dr. Yee, would you care to be first?

Dr. Yee. Sure.

STATEMENT OF DR. BARBARA YEE, SAN JOSE, CA

Dr. Yee. Thank you for letting me be here. I was delighted to be invited to present testimony on behalf of the Oklahoma Indian Council and Indian Tribes nationwide.

The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging collected data for a needs assessment this past year on elderly Indians, 29 tribes in Oklahoma, and nationwide.

The questionnaires were distributed through the tribal leaders and were given to elderly tribe members to complete and return. The following testimony is based upon the preliminary data analysis just completed a few days ago.

Senator Nickles. Well, we will include your entire statement in the record so maybe you could just pick out a couple of highlights.

Dr. Yee. OK.

The questionnaire covered 813 interviews of elderly Indians, and I want to highlight some of the general demographic characteristics and talk about two of the main features of this study.

Senator NICKLES. Before you go further, I want to know were all the persons questioned, were they Oklahomans?

Dr. YEE. They were from Oklahoma and other tribes nationwide, but the majority of the interviews were from Oklahoma.

Senator NICKLES. OK. Thank you.

Dr. YEE. I do not have the breakdown here. I have it in my computer at home if you would care to see it later.

The majority of the people were female and, of course, like many elderly samples, the kinds of incomes that elderly Indians had were social security, SSI, and veterans' benefits.

What we found in looking at the data base on monthly income was that the average amount of income monthly was about $301 to $450 for the Indian person interviewed plus their family.

When we took the breakdown in monthly income of the people living with their families, we found that by a conservative estimate, nearly 83 percent of our samples lived at or below the poverty level. That is extremely higher than the Oklahoma poverty level.

Senator NICKLES. What is the poverty level today?

Dr. YEE. This was the guidelines that were just set by the Federal Register, February 1986. Poverty levels for single individuals were $5,360; $7,240 for couples; and $1,800 for every additional person in the household.

So, by conservative estimate, nearly 83 percent of our elderly Indian samples were at or below the poverty level. By extreme guidelines, or at worst, about 96 percent of the example were below the poverty level. So they are extremely impoverished. And, of course, you know that money buys a lot of services or money for food and housing. So this is a very strong finding based upon our interviews of actual Indians, Indian elderly.

Another startling statistic that we found was that the medical needs were not being met. There were a lot of needs that were not served at all. Elderly Indians went to tribal hospitals or Indian health services for services. If, that proposed regulation which eliminated those who do not have more than a fourth Indian blood, would eliminate a lot of elderly Indians from receiving services, and they would not have the resources or the facilities to get help for their medical needs.

Most of the care that were provided to the elderly, we found, were primarily through family services. So I guess an appropriate way to provide services is to provide services through the families by allowing the family to either have access to services or information.

By and large, most of the Indians said they needed services and would like information or referrals. This indicated that they do not know where to get the services. If we were to effectively do this, we need to work through Indian families with whom we can seek the older inhabitants thereafter for services. I think this is an effective mechanism for our elderly Indians as well as those elderly minority groups.

Another need that we found is transportation. We found that they did have access to transportation, but requested that they needed a high percentage of transportation on a daily basis, two to three times a week; that there was some need hased upon going to the doctor or going to some facility, or even going to the senior center to socialize with their friends on a daily basis.

We found that a lot of the elderly Indians in our sample went to the senior center nearly 65 percent, this would be an appropriate facility to provide other types of services as well, health screening, nutrition, and all that. And I think the critical issue is having services provided at one place where a lot of the elderly Indians come is, in effect, a cost-effective way to provide the services.

I would like to say, because of the short period of time, that it appears that the elderly are in great need. This is a group that has low financial resources, and by our sample, we find that they do need a lot of help.

We find that there are two basic issues for elderly Indians are financial and health issues. These two issues have been systematically related to the quality of life, life satisfaction, and happiness. We must try to address these issues if we are to assist the elderly Indian to cope with their old age. After all, our elderly deserve the very best that we can offer. We owe them those basic rights after their lifetime of contribution to this society. We must make strident efforts to improve our programs and services for elderly Indians nationwide.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Yee follows:]

INDIAN ELDERLY IN OKLAHOMA AND OTHER STATES

Barbara W.K. Yee, Ph.D.
School of Human Development
University of Oklahoma

Good morning honored members of the U.S. Senate and guests. I was delighted to be invited to provide testimony on behalf of the Oklahoma Indian Council and Indian Tribes nationwide. The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging, collected data for a needs assessment of elderly Indians from 29 tribes in Oklahoma and nationwide. Questionnaires were distributed through the tribal leaders and given to elderly tribe members to complete and return. The following testimony is based upon the preliminary data analysis just completed days ago.

Sample Demographic information

A total of 813 elderly Indians completed the questionnaires. These Indians were from 44 to 102 years of age with a mean age of 70 years.

Marital status:

single	7.9%	married	38.3%
widowed	40.1%	divorced	11.9%

*Sex: 34.2% were male and 62.9 were female.

Socioeconomic status

The majority of the sample, 55.8%, were retired with 16.4 working full-time, part-time or looking for work.

The most common sources of income for these elderly Indians were Social Security, SSI, and Veteran benefits.

Social security	64 % *
SSI	22 % *
Foodstamps	9 %
Pension	5 %
Veteran	11 % *
Investment	1 %
Company retirement	7 %
Wages	9 %
Family contribution	2 %
Public assistance	7 %
Help from tribe	3 %
Other sources	19 % *

On the average, elderly Indians had 1.6 different sources of income. Elderly Indians need much financial assistance to live above the poverty level.

Monthly income for elderly Indians and their family was on the average $301 to $450.

less than $200	11 %
$200-$300	15 %
$301-$450	37 % *
$451-$600	16 %
over $600	17 %

The number of people living on the income cited above varied from one person to as many as 15 with a mean of 2 persons in the household.

A closer inspection of the socioeconomic data revealed that when the monthly income is considered by the number of family members who live off that income, by conservative estimates 83% or at worst 96% of our elderly Indian sample were at or below the new poverty guidelines published in the Federal Register. The criteria established in February 1986 set the official poverty rate at $5,360 for single individuals, $7,240 for couples and $1,800 for every additional person in the household.

POVERTY STATUS OF ELDERLY INDIANS

	Number of people living on income					
	1	2	3	4	5	6-15
Yearly income						
$0-2,400	*46 6.16%	*20 2.68%	*3 0.40%	*2 0.27%	*2 0.27%	*6 0.80%
$2,401-3,600	*52 6.96%	*33 4.42%	*18 2.41%	*7 0.94%	*6 0.60%	*6 0.80%
$3,601-5,400	*163 21.82%	*78 10.44%	*21 2.81%	*10 1.34%	*7 0.94%	*10 1.33%
$5,401-7,200	*52 6.96%	*48 6.43%	*9 1.20%	*13 1.74%	*3 0.40%	*4 0.54%
$7,201 +	29 3.88%	52 6.96%	17 2.28%	15 2.01%	11 1.47%	4 0.54%

* Poverty status(Federal Register, Feb. 1986)= $5,360 for single individuals, $7,240 for couples, $1,800 for every additional person.
3 people = $ 9,040 4 people = $ 10,840
5 people = $12,640 6-15 people = $ 14,440 - $ 30,640

These figures strongly imply that the majority of elderly Indians need financial assistance during their old age.

Our survey indicated that assistance with either income or employment needs would be:

Money	26 %
Services	47 % *
Education	6 %
Information and referral	43 % *

This data implied that elderly Indians felt that services to provide basic needs, then information to access and be referred to appropriate services, and money were essential to assist them with economic needs.

Housing

The types of housing elderly Indians most frequently had were single family homes and public housing.

Single family home	79 % *
Apartment or duplex	5 %
Public housing	9 % *
Private retirement complex	1 %
Mobile home	2 %
Nursing home	3 %
Rooming house	1 %

The majority of elderly Indians lived in single family dwellings. Another trend in the data indicated that they were in disrepair. The types of most needed repairs were windows, plumbing, roof, electrical system.

Roof	21 % *	Other	17 %
Insulation	16 %		
Stairs	10 %		
Floors	14 %		
Siding	5 %		
Temperature regulation	9 %		
Plumbing	25 % *		
Electrical	19 % *		
Windows	41 % *		

One the average, elderly Indians needed about 2 types of repairs to insure the safety and improve the livability of their homes.

Independent living

The types of services that elderly Indians would most like to receive in order to maintain them in their own homes are paying bills, household tasks, laundry, friendly visiting, and legal services.

Paying bills	43 % *
Management of books	5 %
Household tasks	31 % *

Laundry	24 % *
Friendly visiting	19 %
Home health care	10 %
Legal services	17 %

In order to maintain an independent living, elderly Indians identified about 1.5 ways to assist them in being able to live in their own homes.

Nutritional Needs

Approximately 16 % of our sample said that they had problems getting enough to eat. 26% had trouble with grocery shopping and 24% need help with food preparation. Preparation of the elderly Indians food most commonly were themselves, nutrition site and meals on wheels, their spouses.

Self	71 % *
Spouse	19 % *
Friend	5 %
Employee	1 %
Relative	8 %
Restaurant	6 %
Nutrition site	35 % *
Meals on wheels	32 % *

52% of the elderly Indians had a doctor prescribe a special diet for them. The types of special diets most commonly prescribed for elderly Indians were for diabetes, low salt and fat.

Low salt	34 % *
Low fat	25 % *
Food allergy	1 %
Diabetes	27 % *
Vitamins and minerals	5 %
Others	4

Medical, dental and health care

The most common illnesses that were treated in the past were high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes, eye and hearing problems, and heart trouble.

Arthritis	33 % *
Diabetes	32 % *
Cancer	4 %
Heart problems	21 % *
High blood pressure	41 % *
Eye problems	23 % *
Stroke	5 %
Hearing	20 % *
Other illnesses	14 %

The elderly Indians indicated that they needed health care by a doctor, nurse or other health professionals:

Daily	1 %
Weekly	7 %
Monthly	56 % *
Yearly	27 % *

A federal proposal to limit free health care to only those people who are at least one-fourth Indian would seriously affect the health of the elderly. The elderly as a group are very high consumers of health care relative to other age groups and to impose such a ruling without consideration of the serious negative implications for the elderly group would be ill advised. Indians relative to other ethnic groups in the United States have one of the shortest life expectancies, this implies that serious health problems exist for Indians which lead to their earlier deaths. This proposed change in the health rule would significantly lead to an even shorter life expectancy and poorer quality of life for elderly Indians.

Medical services were provided to elderly Indians by:

Private physicians	19 % *
Indian health service	74 % *
Tribal hospital	19 % *
Public health service	9 %
Other	5 %

As demonstrated by the above chart, a large number of elderly Indians use the Indian Health Service for their medical needs. The proposed change in eligibility may create a gap in medical and health services for those Indians who have less than one quarter Indian blood. The problem in many rural and minority communities is that high quality and available health and medical services are scanty. This translates into a delay of medical care for acute problems and prevention of more serious illnesses. As a result, Indian elderly would wait to see a health care specialist until the health problem became quite serious, and most often the health problem becomes chronic, and irreversible leading to premature death.

Care would most likely be provided by the following people if the elderly person was homebound. Children were most likely to care for their elderly parent, then spouse and themselves.

Spouse	26 % *
Child	39 % *
Friend	6 %
Relative	17 % *
Self	25 % *

26 % of the Indian elderly said that they had adequate dental care. Two most common reasons elderly Indians didn't have adequate health services were not enough money and other reasons.

No money	12 % *
Unavailablity of dentist	4 %
No transportation	7 %
Other reasons	8 % *

Transportation

Although the elderly Indians had access to some form of transportation, they still needed more available transportation on a daily and weekly basis.

Daily	21 % *
2-3 times a week	19 % *
Once a week	17 % *
Twice a month	5 %
Less than once per month	12 %

Legal services

The types of legal services the elderly Indians most frequently identified as needed were drawing up wills and other general legal services.

Drawing up wills	35 % *
Purchasing or selling a house	3 %
Court	4 %
Other legal services	32 % *

A large proportion of elderly Indians used no legal services in the past.

Private lawyer	27 % *
Legal aid	18 %
None	43 % *

Senior center

Nearly 65 % of our sample attended a senior center. Since a large number of our elderly Indian sample attended a senior center frequently, this center may be the ideal place to offer other types of services as well such as health screening or other financial planning services.

Every day	30 % *
Once a week	16 % *
Once in a while	15 % *
For special events	9 %

For those who didn't attend a senior center, the following barriers were identified: their busy schedule, no transportation and being far away.

Far distance	8 %	
No transportation	11 %	*
Too busy with other things	23 %	*
Didn't like activities offered	1 %	
People weren't friendly	1 %	

General Needs

The elderly Indians identified as their most important general needs as information and referral to existing services, eyeglasses, some to talk over problems, and hearing aids.

Someone to talk over problems	20 %	*
Respite care for ill relative	5 %	
Medigap insurance	9 %	
Eyeglasses	36 %	*
Hearing aid	16 %	*
Wheelchair or cane	7 %	
Information and referral	50 %	*
Other	9 %	

Conclusions and discussion

It appears that the older the Indian person gets, the higher number of services he/she needs to maintain an independent living and higher number of needs identified.

The higher the monthly income the less services needed for independent living, home repairs, transportation, and overall number of needs.

It appears that those elderly who expressed a high need for independent living services, had a tendency to also need help with employment issues, home repairs and help in general, had more prescriptions for special diets, had more illnesses, needs for homecare, medical and dental services, transportation and legal services.

The two most serious problems faced by elderly Indians were financial and health issues. These two issues have been systematically related to life satisfaction, happiness and the quality of life. We must try to address these two serious problems if we want to assist the elderly Indian adapt and cope with their old age. Afterall, our elderly deserve the very best that we can offer, we owe them those basic rights after their lifetime of contribution to society. We must make strident efforts to improve our programs and services for elderly Indians nationwide.

Senator NICKLES. Doctor Yee, thank you very much for your comments and also for your survey. I look forward to reviewing it in even greater detail.

Oneida.

STATEMENT OF ONEIDA SAMIS, TITLE VI PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA, DURANT, OK

Ms. SAMIS. Hi. I am Oneida Ruth Samis, title VI program director for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, OK, and I am testifying on behalf of the Indian elderly of Choctaw Nation and also all the tribal government currently administering the title VI grants.

Senator Nickles, title VI administrators, and guests, the topic selected for my testimony today was services available to Indian elders through the Older Americans Act.

The Older Americans Act has seven titles. I will not go into all the titles. Of the mentioned titles, the tribal government has participated with only two, which are title VI, grants to tribal government for nutrition and supportive service since 1980, and title IV, grants for training, research, projects and programs for one-time funding during fiscal year 1986.

Services to older Indians are available through Title III Program, but a recent survey within the Choctaw Nation showed that the majority of full-blood Indians do not receive services from title III. Title III serves older Indians within their own State, but they, too, with budget limitation, are unable to reach of our full-blood older Indians who reside in isolated areas. And many of our problems is transportation.

The full-blood older Indians are of priority concern of all the tribal administration because of the cultural, social, and economic disadvantages. Many of our full-blood older Indians are uneducated and have not had the opportunity to lead a comfortable lifestyle, but they, too, are very proud people and would enjoy socializing among their peers. With the title VI grants being made available to the tribal government, it has become more and more visible daily as they attend a nutrition program within their service area.

It was through this concern that the Choctaw Nation elected to expand their Title VI Program within the 10 counties of the Choctaw Nation. Within Choctaw Nation, there are approximately 6,960 older Indians, and with a small budget of $84,000, it has been and will be a difficult task for the Choctaw Nation to reach all eligible Indians. Currently, we are having to serve meals 1 day per week in each of the districts giving the older Indians an opportunity to receive this Title VI Program. This program came about through a title IV pilot volunteer project. Volunteers are utilized to the maximum for reaching the goal and objectives of title VI.

Many of the title VI grantees are administrating a small grant, and having to deal with heavily populated Indians within their service area, and having to face the same or similar problems. Without tribal government's support and concern, many of our goals and objectives may never be reached. Tribal government allows for use of tribal facility, free utility usage wherever it is necessary to make sure that title VI continues.

During the fiscal year 1986, title VI grantees were given an opportunity to apply for title IV moneys; $20,000 per grantee seemed petty. Title IV money has given the grantees an opportunity to expand their program through pilot projects, create new innovative ideas to provide services to their participants, and to properly train their staff to work with and on behalf of the older Indians. This program should be made available to the tribal government for follow-ups of these pilot projects, to reinforce the current projects and ideas, and/or to continue training of their staff.

Services that are available on a limited basis for our older Indians are prescription medication, and health device, whether it may be eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aid, wheelchair, crutches, and I could go on. This form of services should be mentioned for consideration under title VII, which reads "Older Americans Personal Health Education and Training Program." Education and training of older Indians, they need services because many are beyond health prevention. Health prevention should have been made available like 30 years ago.

In summarizing, I would like for the Senate Special Unit on Aging very carefully consider reauthorization of the Older Americans Act as it is vital to all older American citizens, not just the native Americans; support to increase services to title VI grantees. This program is very beneficial to older Indians because it gives them an opportunity to congregate within a tribal facility and giving them an opportunity to communicate within their own native language. One hour of socialization, 1 hour gets the Indian people out of their homes and allows them to visit with friends and families and enjoy singing their own tribal hymns.

Third, support for continuation of the title IV for tribal governments so that limited services that are available today can be supplemented by followup or training of staff and all volunteers.

I did have one attachment from Earl Plumly for the entire senior center that I would like it be a part of the hearing record.

Senator NICKLES. We will be happy to include it.

Ms. SAMIS. I want to attach it.

I do also have a resolution from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma supporting our program and our endeavors, and I would also like it attached.

Senator NICKLES. OK. We will be happy to.

[The attachments follow:]

URBAN INDIANS

by

Earl Plumley, Coordinator
Intertribal Senior Center
Member, Governor's Committee on Aging

Indians living in the city, working to raise their families, seeking a better quality of life for themselves and their families are not privileged to receive the same services as those on the Reservations - even though we are living and working in the urban area we are counted on the rolls of the Reservation. Funding is allowed for us - as a number - but we who are trying to make a living in the city never receive the money or the services.

Those of us who live in the city have a hard time getting health care - the trips to Shawnee, Enid or El Reno can be expensive - and most of the time impossible to get to. Transportation for urban Indians is one of the greatest needs, whether it be to get to health services or to the grocery store. The Intertribal Senior Center has a van and is very fortunate, but we would not have had the van had our participants not raised the money for our share of the 80 - 20 purchase price. We could not manage the operation of the van if it were not for The Salvation Army providing a driver, the insurance, the gas and the maintenance on it. And, because of this, transportation is not available every day.

Those of us in the Intertribal Center are more fortunate than other urban Indians. We do have a place even though it is much too small. As their leader I am paid a small amount by The Salvation Army through a Title V program. So are our two Center Aides. We need a meeting place for urban Indians. The Intertribal Senior Center meets in a very small part of a small fire station that is rented by The Salvation Army with Title III funds for the use of the Hispanics and the Indians. If we had our own place we could have a crafts area not only for producing but for selling. If we had a bigger place we could work towards bringing more urban Indians together. An outreach worker is needed to go out into the community - visiting and working with the isolated and homebound Indians.

Meals are needed by the Indian elderly. Congregate meal sites serve food that is not the foods of our people. Consideration is not made as to our ethnic desires and needs.

There are many needs of the urban Indians - such as transportation, employment, health services, hot meals, outreach services, larger meeting place - but to provide services to meet these needs funds are needed for a full time Center Director (where now I can only be paid 25 hours). Funds are needed for an outreach worker - funds are needed for supplies - funds are needed to operate our van.

I would respectfully request that further investigation be done to see why some of the Title VI monies cannot be used for those of us who live in the urban areas.

Thank you.

Earl Plumley

BEAD WORK — LEATHER WORK — QUILTING — SHAWLS
BASKET WEAVING

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Intertribal Senior Citizens

— ARTS AND CRAFTS —

Meetings: Tues. & Friday
Phone 636-1169 - 677-5046

3416 S. Robinson
Oklahoma City, Okla.

RESOLUTION OF THE CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA: R16-86

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FOR RE-AUTHORIZATION OF THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AS ADMENDED, and;

WHEREAS, The Older Americans Act of 1965 is an Act TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW OR IMPROVED PROGRAMS TO HELP OLDER PERSONS THROUGH GRANTS TO THE STATES FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND SERVICES AND FOR TRAINING, THROUGH RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, OR TRAINING PROJECT GRANTS, AND TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE AN OPERATING AGENCY TO BE DESIGNATED AS THE "ADMINISTRATION ON AGING", and;

WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is an American Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the provisions of the Act of June 26, 1936-49, Stat. 1967 and is federally recognized by the United States Government through the Secretary; and

WHEREAS, The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has the responsibility to its Tribal members to provide for the administration of services as provided through the unique relationship between the United States of America and the Choctaw Nation; and

WHEREAS, The Choctaw Nation has administered the Title VI Program of Older Amereicans Act since 1980 and has a successful program in providing services to Elderly Indian, and;

WHEREAS, The Choctaw Nation had an opportunity to administer the Title IV Program of Older Americans Act for FY '86; the success and support it was to the Title VI Program was gradifying, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma supports the Re-authorization of the Older American Act as admended, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That continuation of Title IV funding be available to all Title VI grantees.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned as Speaker of the Tribal Council of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the Tribal Council is composed of twelve (12) seats. Eight (8) members must be present to constitute a quorum. I further certify that twelve (12) members answered roll call and that a quorum was present at the regular called session of the Tribal Council at Tuskahoma, Oklahoma on June 14,, 1986. I further certify that the foregoing Resolution R16-86 was adopted at such meeting by the affirmative vote of twelve (12) members, no (0) negative votes and none (0) abstaining.

Dale Cox

Dale Cox, Speaker
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Ryman Battiest

Ryman Battiest, Secretary
Choctaw Nation Tribal Council

Date: 6-17-86

Date Approved: 6-19-86

Hollis E. Roberts, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

June 25, 1986

Director Oneida Lamis
Elderly Nutrition Program

To whom It May Concern -

I am very happy with your program, the food is excellent & the preparation above reproach. My husband & I do so enjoy the friendly comaraderie of all at the Wilburton Choctaw Center. The arts & crafts are very enjoyable & we are looking forward to working with silver & turquoise. The outings to Arrowhead & Labor Day Festival at Tuskahoma were great.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely

Alice L. James
P.O. Box 426
Wilburton, Okla
74578

June 25, 1986
Wilburton, Okla

Director Oneida Sarris

The Elderly Nutrition program.

I am one of the Senior Citizens of the Choctaw center of Wilburton Okla. and I believe it is one of the greatest things to date for the Choctaw senior Citizens. I've been involved in the work here for two years. we meet together and quilt learn beading and other things that give we eldery something to do with our time. we have one day a week we meet for a noon meal and get to talk and injoy the company of each other and that is very important at our ages. if we didnt have this center so many of us would not be able to get to see and injoy each other at all

Sincerly
Virginia Naley
Wilburton Choctaw Center

$90,000 - Choctaw Title VI has been cut to $84,000 -

12 sites open
1 day a week

6,980 Elderly Choctaws

Senator NICKLES. Oneida, thank you very much for your statement.

We also have Randle Durant, who is a Choctaw tribal councilman, that joined us today and wanted to add a couple of comments.

STATEMENT OF RANDLE DURANT, CHOCTAW TRIBAL COUNCILMAN, DURANT, OK

Mr. DURANT. Mine will be short, Senator Nickles, and I appreciate this opportunity. I have met with you several times in Washington, and about 1½ years ago, and my concerns to you at that time was title VI and title IV.

I just wanted to say that the Indian elderly are a unique and very special group of people. I have been working with the elderly people for the past 12 or 13 years. I helped initiate and organized the National Indian Council on Aging. I helped write the constitution and bylaws for that. I was vice chairman of the Arizona Indian Council on Aging for several years.

Title VI came about through the National Indian Council on Aging. And I was director for 8 years of the second largest nutrition program in the Nation.

My wife and I donate and volunteer 1 day a week for the past 2 years to the senior citizens of Wilburton, Latimer County, our district No. 6. We prepare the food for 55 to 80 elderly Indians. A lot of them are blind and handicapped, but they come in and sing Choctaw hymns. We brought the chief of police in to give them information on fraud prevention. This has opened the door to many things and many benefits for our elderly.

We are going to have to concentrate a lot on volunteers and really make this work for our Indian people. We are going to have to love our people; we are going to have to volunteer and help them and show them the way to a better life. This is one of the things that when you are short of money, everyone has to pitch in and do this.

These elderly people have raised funds, collected clothing for the needy Choctaw children in my district, and we had a free Thanksgiving dinner for all the Choctaws of my district through the efforts of the elderly there.

And I will just close by saying that I appreciate the help that you have given the Choctaw Nation in our endeavors for our economic development today on behalf of our senior citizens.

Thank you very much, Senator Nickles.

Senator NICKLES. Randle, thank you very much for the efforts that you have made, and I appreciate your comments.

The next panelist we have is Curtis Cook from Albuquerque, and we appreciate your coming over as well.

STATEMENT OF CURTIS COOK, NATIONAL INDIAN COMMITTEE ON AGING, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

Mr. COOK. Thank you, Senator Nickles.

On behalf of the National Indian Council on Aging and the 109,000 Indian elderly and Alaskan Native elderly in our country, I would like to express our gratitude to you for arranging for these hearings, for the poignant truth about the plight of our Nation's

Indian elderly must be brought to the attention of those who can compassionately respond and bring about changes for the better. This is why we come to you today, Senator Nickles.

All that you have heard going before and all that you will yet hear are for the purpose of seeking action, action which has not been forthcoming in the past; instead there has been lack of response, lack of acknowledgment of our letters, lack of appointments with the Commissioner, lack of ability to feel that we really mean something to somebody within the Administration on Aging.

And we feel that this is an opportunity to change all that, and this is why we are here.

I have been asked to speak on the issue of availability of services to Indian elderly under the Older Americans Act. As you know, the act contains language which targets services toward those who are in the greatest economic and social need. Clearly, the Indian and Alaskan Native elderly fall within every targeting category contained in the act. And yet, as I shall demonstrate, the greater majority of the Indian elderly persons in our country are effectively excluded from services under the act.

It is unthinkable, Senator, that in a nation that is as affluent as ours, in perhaps the most enlightened nation in the world, that there should persist such patterns of impoverishment and hopelessness as exists among our Indian elderly people. It is just incredible, when you get out there and see how it really is, how they really live. Nevertheless, according to the 1980 census, 61 percent of our Nation's Indian elderly, and now we hear as many as 83 percent, are below the national poverty level. For the most part, they live in inadequate housing, in harsh climates, and in the constant jeopardy of deteriorating health and isolation.

I sincerely hope, in our discussion of statistics, programs and provisions of the law, that no one here will lose sight of the fact that we are talking about real people, people who are in need, who are at risk, and who are very vulnerable. We are talking about the Indian elders who have the same rights as any of the rest of us in our country to the love and consideration of their fellowman. We are talking about elderly Indian people who should be given the opportunity to live out their lives in dignity and security.

This testimony is derived from the results of a survey conducted in recent months among the 124 title VI grantees. Twenty-one of those grantees responded.[1] Due to the shortness of time, we were unable to get responses from the remaining grantees. But aspects of this testimony are also derived from professional studies conducted by the National Indian Council on Aging, and from my own experience of over 20 years of advocacy for Indian people in the country.

The question is, Are services under the Older Americans Act truly being made available to the Indian elderly? Perhaps a more appropriate question would be: Are the services provided under the Older Americans Act being provided at sufficient levels to meet their needs? I propose to demonstrate today that those services are not being provided to the greater majority of Indian elder; and, second, that they are not provided at adequate levels to meet the needs of those who now participate in the programs.

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[1] See p. 97.

I prepared some charts which I wanted to have included in my testimony and which I was going to put on the overhead projector. But due to the logistics and the shortness of time, I will not bother with that.

The first of these charts indicates the total population of Indian elderly people as being 109,000. The 1980 census tells us that 52 percent of those Indian elders live on the reservations, while 48 percent live in urban areas. Among the 52 percent reservation population, there are 473 federally recognized tribes. Out of these 473 tribes, 124 have title VI grants.

In our survey that we conducted recently among the title VI grantees, we discovered that the percentages of unserved among the grantees were an average of 49 percent, but going as high as 80 percent. And I discovered yesterday, through confirming with another source, that the second largest tribe in our Nation has 90 percent of their elders unserved. That tribe is Cherokee here in Oklahoma.

Out of the 14 counties the Cherokee Tribe covers, only one full county has services, and parts of two other counties receive services under title VI. Effectively, Mr. Chairman, one-eighth of the Nation's Indian population is receiving services through title VI grantees, 124 being approximately one-fourth of the total tribes existing in the country.

But what of the remaining 350 or so tribes, what of the remaining 48 percent urban Indian population? They must be served by title III or not be served at all. The Administration on Aging has given us figures which indicate that the Indian elderly represent less than 1 percent of the total participants in title III services.

More recent information from the Administration on Aging indicated to us, in a letter from the Commissioner, that 24 percent of the Nation's Indian elderly receive congregate meals through title III. We are here today, in part, to question those figures. Because in all of our studies, in our surveys and in our hearings that we conducted around the country, our observation has been that most Indian elderly do not even know what title III is, much less receiving services through title III.

Second, there are only three Indian Area Agencies on Aging in the country. The words "several Indian Area Agencies on Aging" was used by Mr. Diaz. That number is three.

The other Area Agencies on Aging do not have effective outreach techniques nor motivation to reach out and touch the Indian elderly population within their planning and service areas. And we would respectfully submit that the statistics which have been presented to us are subject to serious question based on the results of our studies.

Mr. Chairman, through the process of the survey which we conducted among the title VI grantees around the country, we discovered that the 49 percent of Indian elderly people who do not receive services are not effectively being reached by title III. In fact, probably all of those would not be eligible due to the restrictions that you previously heard; when their tribe has a title VI grant, they cannot receive services. And they are able to reach on an average only 51 percent of their own elders within their tribe, the remaining 49 percent not being able to participate at all. Sometimes as high as 80 and 90 percent are unserved as I mentioned.

Further restricting the availability of services, the drastic funding cutbacks have debilitated some programs so that they are hardly able to operate. Forget providing quality, comprehensive and adequate services.

The chart figures which I have submitted to you in your copy of the testimony indicate that the grantees which existed prior to 1985, in fiscal year 1986 alone received cutbacks on an average of $12,997. It is important for us to underscore here the fact that those cutbacks were, at least in part, a direct result of the addition by the Administration on Aging of 42 new grantees to the previously existing 83; so that a meager increase in funding in fiscal year 1986 had to be spread among 125 grantees instead of the previously existing 83. The effect of that cutback and other cutbacks over the years has been that the services have been drastically reduced. It is admirable to add to the number of grantees, and we all here favor doing so. But increases in the number of grantees should be accompanied by commensurate increases in funding levels so as not to penalize the grantees and disable them with respect to providing services for their elders.

Senator NICKLES. Can I interrupt and ask you a question along that same line?

Mr. COOK. Sure.

Senator NICKLES. If we have an additional 42, or how many, 40 some?

Mr. COOK. Forty-two grantees to my understanding were added in fiscal year 1986.

Senator NICKLES. If they just added that, would that have some reduction off of title III? Were some of those receiving title III?

Mr. COOK. No, sir, that would not—to my knowledge, that would not impact on the title III participation levels.

Senator NICKLES. I was just wondering——

Mr. COOK. Title III was already not serving most of that Indian elderly population.

Senator NICKLES. Just trying to get back to this question of allocation between title III and title VI, because all the money is over in title III. Because I hear exactly what you are saying, yes, if you add another 42 grantees, and if you are still talking about 7½ or 7 or something like that, then you are looking at some commensurate reductions for those existing programs unless you put some new money in to cover them, or move some money over from title III over into title VI or title IV, or wherever.

Mr. COOK. The grantees were told officially by the Administration on Aging that the net effect of the addition of the 42 grantees would be approximately $1,700 per grantee. This was at a meeting in Albuquerque in the month of March during the title VI training workshops.

However, as our survey has indicated, the average reduction for the grantees existing prior to 1983, the average reduction in fiscal year 1986 was $12,997, plus some grantees experienced a reduction of as much as $20,000 in that 1 fiscal year. And they were already unable to serve their elders within their communities.

I would call to your attention certain examples—I will just mention these in passing and you may refer to them later—examples from Jicarilla, Apache, Mille Lacs Chippewa, and Passamaquoddy as cases in point. I wanted to highlight those with graphs which I have also provided with my testimony; however, there is not time, so I will hasten on.

The impact of these reductions on programs has been devastating. The staff has been drastically reduced such as in San Juan and Santo Domingo, Pueblos of New Mexico, Red Cliff Chippewa, Potawatomi, and others too numerous to mention.

Several grantees have reported that funds for transportation had to be cut; hence, fewer elders can receive home delivered meals or be transported to the meal sites. Food budgets had to be cut back, meaning that there would be fewer meals available and fewer elders could be served.

The hard part of this, Senator Nickles, is turning away those elders who have been previously served by the program.

Some meal sites had to reduce their hours of operation and others closed down altogether. There is little or no outreach to bring in additional elders in many places. In fact, this would be ludicrous in view of the fact that most of the grantees cannot even serve adequately the elders who now participate.

The unfortunate and intolerable bottom line, Senator, is this: that the already deprived and undernourished Indian elders of our country are being told "you will just have to tighten your belt," or, "sorry, we cannot serve you today or tomorrow or next week."

I am certain, Mr. Chairman, that you and the members of your committee will do all that is within your power out of a sense of compassion and responsibility to help us change the situation for the better. I am certain that you will communicate the impact of the funding cuts to the members of the Appropriations Committee through the process of the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act in 1987.

There was a day, Senator, you and I know, when that which was old, was cherished and venerated as being something of value, old ways, old things and old people. But I am afraid something has gone seriously wrong in our society. I am afraid we need to relearn some of the old values, the teaching that we must respect our elders.

Let us here today reaffirm our commitment to these who are a valued national resource. The time for making excuses or using tricky statistics to cover inadequacies is past. It is time to acknowledge honestly the deficiencies in both dollars and effort, to reinstate the funds and services which have been cut back or cut out, and provide new levels of funding which will clearly indicate that we are indeed targeting services to those who are in the greatest economic and social need.

Along with substantial increases in the appropriations for title VI, and we recommend as much as $25 million, which we have requested for more than 6 years, let us devise ways of eliminating the restrictions between titles III and VI which effectively exclude many elders from services. We can no longer accept excuses, evasive statistics, or invisible advocacy. We need to begin now to take definitive action, Senator Nickles, because this indeed is a matter of life and death.

Thank you very much, Senator Nickles, for your attention and thank you for your time.

[The prepared information submitted by Mr. Cook follows:]

THE EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

Sep. 6, 1839

Qualla Boundary · P.O. Box 455 Cherokee, N.C. 28719
Phone: (704) 497-2771, 497-4771

Robert Youngdeer
Principal Chief

Robin Toineeta
Vice-Chief

Tribal Council Members

Jonathan L. Taylor
Chairman
Wolfetown Township
Gerard Parker
Vice-Chairman
Painttown Township
Wilbur Sequoyah
Big Cove Township
Julius Taylor
Big Cove Township
Jesse Murphy
Birdtown Township
Phillip Smith
Birdtown Township
Bertha Saunooke
Yellowhill Township
Richard Welch
Yellowhill Township
Glenda Sanders
Cherokee County Township
Abraham Wachacha
Snowbird Township
Richard Bird
Painttown Township
Richard Sneed
Wolfetown Township

May 14, 1986

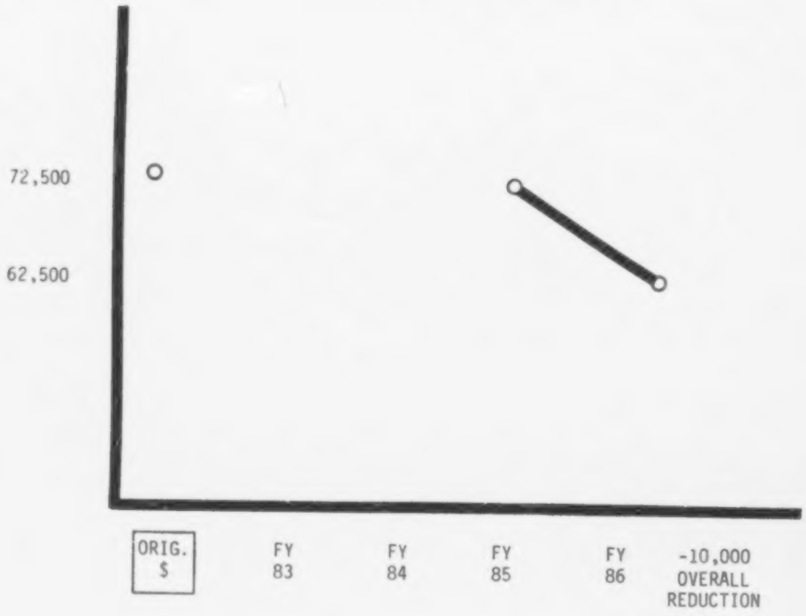
To: Steve Wilson

Fm: Genevieve Lambert, Nutrition Director

Yearly Funding Level	5 years ago $10,000.00 cut. This year $62,500.00 Next year $59,842.00 - $2,658.00 cut.
Services Curtailed	1 Mealsite Manager 1 Outreach Worker
Elderly Served	268
Elderly Not Served	300

Genevieve Lambert

EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE, N.C.



SERVICES CUT

One meal-site manager position cut

One outreach worker position cut

53% unserved

RECEIVED
MAY 29 1986

TITLE VI GRANTEE

History of Funding Survey

Tribe: Pueblo of Jemez

Title VI Director: Mary I. Lucero

Address: P. O. Box 78 Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024

Telephone #: (505) 834-7359/7525

First year of Title VI funding (date): April 1, 1985

Amount of first year grant: $52,849

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 68

Number unserved: 70

Amount of second year grant: $48,841

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 58

Number unserved: 82

Reason for not serving all: The capacity of the meal site is too small for all our Senior Citizens.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Out-of-State travel has been cutback from the grant.

Amount of third year grant:

Number of (unduplicated) elders served:

Number unserved:

Reason for not serving all:

Additional comments regarding funding/problems you may be experiencing, technical assistance needs, etc.

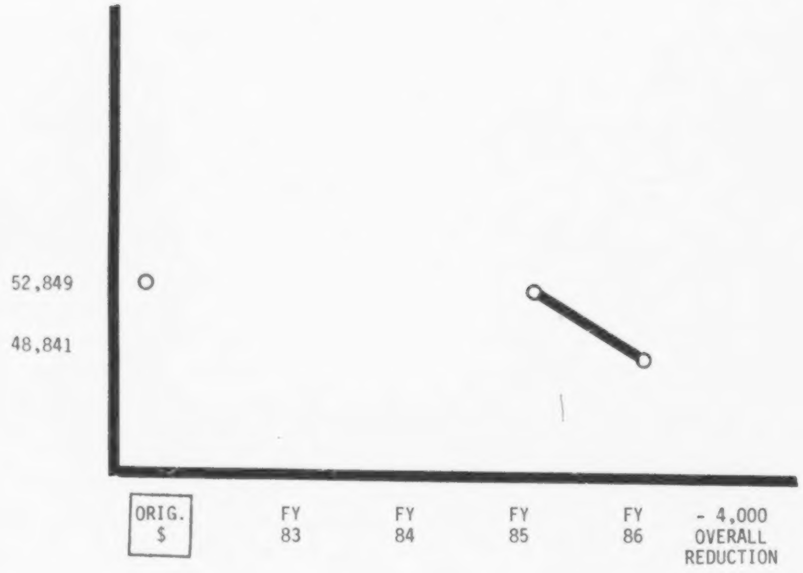
The assistance that we need is monies for our two new vans that we received last year, this monies will be used for transportation for our elderlys'.

Please return to:

Gerrie Norton, Title VI Director
Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74820
405/436-2603

Return by:
May 16, 1986

JEMEZ PUEBLO, N.M.



SERVICES CUT

Larger meal-site needed

Travel cut

Transportation needed

59% needed

RECEIVED
MAY 27 1986

THE JICARILLA APACHE TRIBE
P. O. BOX 507 • DULCE, NEW MEXICO 87528-0507

P.O. Box 125
(505) 759-3617
May 23, 1986

Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Mr. Cook:

Enclosed is a form itemizing the history of funding for the Jicarilla Apache Tribe since Fiscal Year 1981 to Fiscal Year 1986.

Betty White of the Yakima Tribe, recommended that our tribe submit this information to use in regard to a hearing in Oklahoma on June 28, 1986. In Fiscal Year 1986, we received $44,344 and with a 20% expected reduction in funding, we will receive approximately $35,500 in Fiscal Year 1987.

The Jicarilla Apache Tribe has been generous with the Senior Citizens Program in the past, but in Fiscal Year 1987, we will receive only $4,000 for operating expenses. Labor will continue to be provided by the tribe. We are planning to decrease supportive services in FY 1987, due to the budget cut.

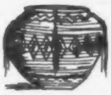
If you need further information, please contact our office at the above number.

Sincerely,

Frances Nuno

Frances Nuno, Secretary
Senior Citizens Program

cc: Leonard Atole, President
Jicarilla Apache Tribe



TITLE VI GRANTEE

History of Funding Survey

Tribe: Jicarilla Apache Tribe

Title VI Director: Cora V. Gomez

Address: P.O. Box 125, Dulce, NM 87528

Telephone #: (505) 759-3617

First year of Title VI funding (date): FY 1981 (Jan. 1981)

Amount of first year grant: $ 65,000

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 39

Number unserved: 93

Amount of second year grant: $ 65,000

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 53

Number unserved: 84

Reason for not serving all: Lacked manpower and funds to provide services to all eligible clientele, therefore services provided were limited to extreme need.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Funds were not decreased.

Amount of third year grant: FY '83 $ 65,925

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 54

Number unserved: 95

Reason for not serving all: Lacked manpower and funds to provide services to all eligible clientele, therefore services provided were limited to extreme need.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Funds were not decreased.

Amount of fourth year grant: FY 84 $65,660

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 66

Number unserved: 92

Reason for not serving all: Lacked manpower and funds to provide services to all eligible clientele, therefore services provided were limited to extreme need.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Small decrease in funding was reflected in the wages of one individual (Minimal).

Amount of fifth year grant: FY 85 $ 55,422

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 110

Number unserved: 68

Reason for not serving all: Lacked manpower and funds to provide services to all eligible clientele, therefore services provided were limited to extreme need.

Services curtailed due to budget cutbacks: Decreased wages, minimal travel money to attend training, unable to pay utilities,decreased administrative services, less support services (transportation).

Amount of sixth year grant: FY 86 $44,344

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 72 (1st 6 mths report)

Additional comments regarding funding/problems you may be experiencing, technical assistance needs, etc. The Jicarilla Apache Tribe is very proud of the Senior Citizens Program and has been supportive. The Title VI Grant is only 26% of the operating budget in Fiscal Year 1986, compared to 100% in Fiscal Year 1981. One of the largest problems on the Jicarilla Reservation is unemployment, therefore the Jicarilla Apache Tribe provides the labor for the Senior Citizens Program. Otherwise if we had to depend on the Title VI Grant alone, there would not be a Senior Citizens Nutrition program servicing 62% of the elders in 1985 (in 1981, 35% of the elderly population was receiving meals).

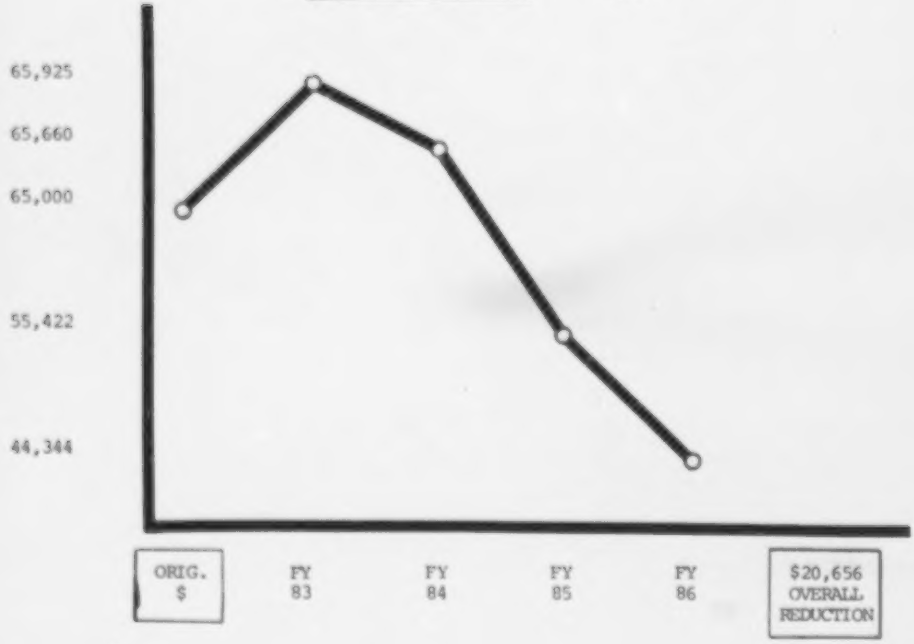
In Fiscal Year 1987, we are anticipating a 20% reduction in our Title VI funding and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe will not increase their donation to the Senior Citizens Program, so we are anticipating decreasing support services, such as Transportation, homemaking and woodchopping.

Please return to:

Gerrie Norton, Title VI Director
Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74820
405/436-2603

Return by:
May 16, 1986

JICARILLA APACHE N.M. 6/86



SERVICES CUT

Decreased administrative $

Reduced manpower

Reduced wages

Travel for training cut out

Serving only elders identified as being in extreme need

60% of elders unserved

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
402 Center Ave. - Kodiak, Alaska 99615 - Phone (907) 486-5725

June 3, 1986

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook
Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albequerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Cook:

I received a letter from Betty White regarding the hearings that you will be testifying at in Oklahoma. Ms. White requested that the following information be forwarded to you.

A. Original FY 1980 Funding Levels:

Our first Title VI Grant was received for FY 82, for the amount of $95,731.00.

B. Yearly Budgets

The yearly grant awards for the Kodiak Area Native Association have been

FY 1982	$95,731
FY 1983	82,192
FY 1984	70,426
FY 1985	76,384
FY 1986	65,427

C. Yearly Cuts

FY 1983	14%	decrease from FY 1982
FY 1984	14%	decrease from FY 1983
FY 1985	8%	increase from FY 1984
FY 1986	14%	decrease from FY 1985

D. Services Effected

1. Decrease in nutrition support services in four communities and elimination of services in two communities:
(continued)

2. Elimination of funding for Elder Advisory Board meetings;
3. Elimination of travel funds for supervisory travel to village sites;
4. Elimination of funds for inservice training trips to village sites where cooks and seniors are;
5. Elimination of home assistance services to seniors due to decrease in staff hours; and
6. Elimination of funds for cook's annual staff meeting and nutritional/social services training.

E. Number of Elders Served
250

F. Number of Elders Underserved
250

Number of Elders Not Served
10

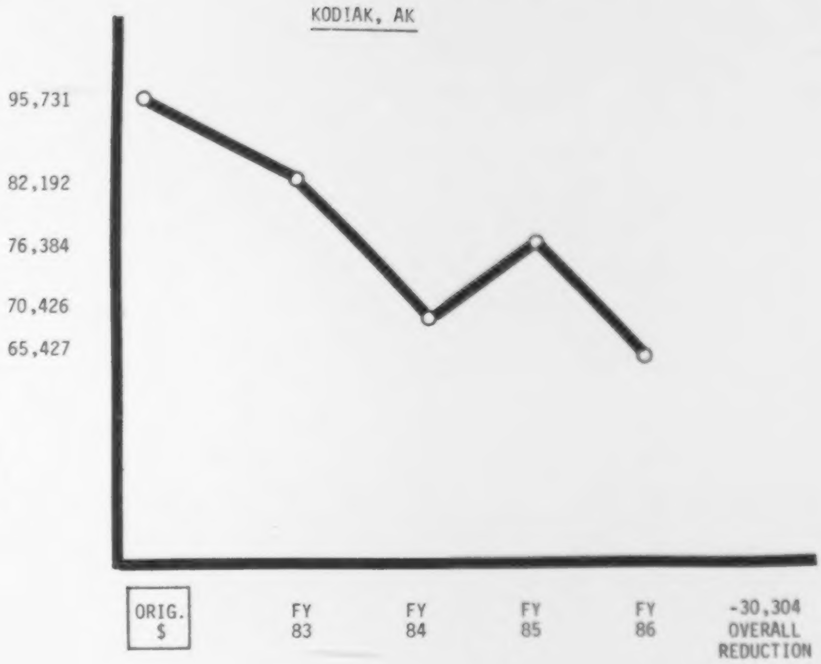
I do hope that this information assists in informing Congress about the effects of the program cuts with services for our Elders. Thank you for speaking on our behalf.

Sincerely,

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
GORDON L. PULLAR, PRESIDENT

Joan Minks
Joan Minks
EMS/ Aging Program Coordinator

cc: Steve Wilson, Chairman
Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging



SERVICES CUT

Two communities eliminated from service delivery

Decreased service in four communities

Advisory Board meetings cut

Travel for in-service training limited

Home-help care cut

4% unserved

RECEIVED
JUN 0 2 1986

LAC COURTE OREILLES
TITLE VI PROGRAM
Pride of the Ojibwa
Route 1
Couderay, Wisconsin 54828
715/462-9364

Myrna L. Thayer
Director

May 27, 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Mr. Curtis Cook,

Original Funding Level-1980--$70,000
Cuts- 1981--$73,100
1982--$72,925
1983 -$68,546
1984--$64,460
1985--$54,344

Number of Elderly served for the six month period. October of 1985 to March of 1986.

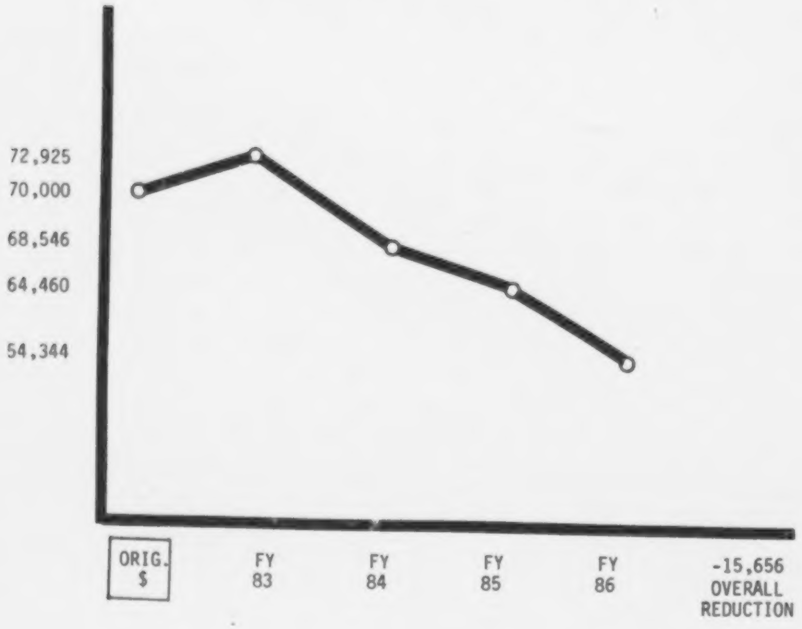
Congregate Meals-3017
Home Delivered Meals-3517
Number of Elders not being served-18.

The Elders that aren't served are in a rest home or they do not want to be served.

At this time the Budget Cuts have not hurt our program. We have been able to manage.

Respectfully,
Myrna L. Thayer
Title VI, Director

LAC COURTE OREILLES, OJIBWA, WIS



SERVICES CUT

- 14% unserved
- Limited support service
- Reduced number of meals
- Reduced staff hours
- No maintenance $

LAGUNA RAINBOW CORPORATION
LAGUNA RAINBOW NURSING CENTER
& ELDERLY CARE CENTER

RECEIVED
JUN 0 4 1986

May 30, 1986

Dear Mr. Cook,

This is a reply to a letter received from Betty White, concerning a testimony you are preparing for the Public Hearing, and our input into some of the problems we are now encountering because of the federal cutbacks.

The first year that Laguna Pueblo got funding was 1981-1982, in the amount of $70,000. from the Older Americans Act. The most received from Title VI was $100,000. in the fourth year of funding. We accomplished everything we had projected, although we could have done more, with more funds.

In the last two years the Title VI program has been decreased by 10% each year. The elderly population, age 60+ has been fluctuating between 585 to 614 the last few years. In our last survey of 1984, there were 997 individuals between age 50 and over.

We serve six communities within a radius of 25 miles of the main facility on a very large reservation. In the past we have managed to give services on a large scale because we consolidated the funding sources. Now because of Fed. cutbacks on every level of government funding our services will be severely curtailed. The two most affected will be transportation and meals. Transportation will be provided only for local medical appointments if the elderly has no other means of transportation, and for emergencies on physician referrals outside of the community, and possibly for one shopping trip to a town 30 miles away. The Meals-On-Wheels will be cut, in lieu of bringing the community elderly into the center once a week.

We are now serving more than 50% of the elderly population, but we will be serving fewer in the next fiscal year.

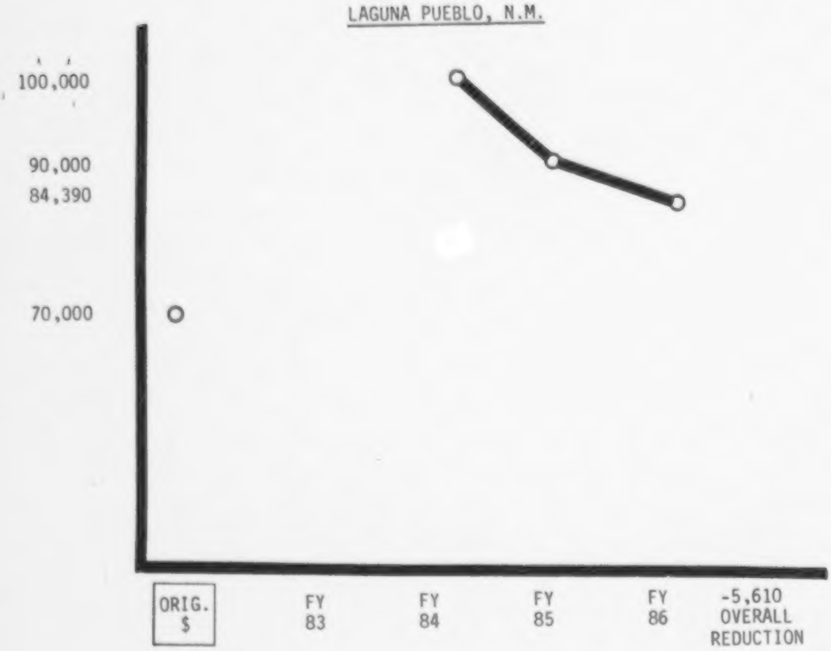
The appropriation for Title VI has not been increased much, and AOA keeps adding more tribes for the same amount of funding that could barely take care of the original programs in 1980.

Many Indians feel that pleas fall on uncaring ears, but we need you, as an Executive Director of a highly visible National entity to speak for the needs of the Indian elderly. We sincerely thank you for your efforts, because we as Indians sometimes take the defeatist attitude.

Respectfully,

Laura Graham
Laura Graham

P.O. Box 236 • New Laguna, New Mexico 87038 • (505) 552-6034



SERVICES CUT

Transportation cut

Number of meals cut

Meals on wheels cut

Understaffed (cooks & social service workers)

64% unserved

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1986

MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS
Executive Branch of Tribal Government

May 14, 1986

Steve Wilson
Creek Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Steve;

Please find attached a copy of the information which you requested regarding our Title VI Elderly Nutrition Program. I have included the grant amounts which our agency has received since it started in fiscal year 1980. As you can see by the figures our program has taken many grant decreases over the years and I anticipate that this year there will be no exception.

Since the program began in 1980 we have done many wonderful thing for our Seniors here in our community. They have many services more readily available to them and they are very appreciative for them. I will give you a brief history of our program.

The Mille Lacs Reservation is divided up into three Districts with Distict I - Mille Lacs the most heavily populated with some 500+ residents. District II - East Lake is located 65 N.E. of District I with a population of 130+ residents and District III - Lake Lena is located 85 miles S.E. of the District I area with a population of 250+. In 1980 the program was started in the District I area on a contractual meal basis with meals being provided to Senior through the Mille Lacs Reservation Marina Touris Complex. During March and April of 1981 feeding sites were established in the District II & III area at the local community centers. Food was ordered and delivered to the outlaying districts and cooks were hired through the C.E.T.A. program at that time to prepare the meals and serve them. Some information and referral services were offered and basic reservation program services were coordinated with the feeding program letting the seniors know what types of services were available to them. As the program continued to grow more and more services we offered to the seniors and alot of information which would not have been available to them without this program. We are very thankful that we are able to offer the Elderly in our community these services. If our feeding program was not here many would not

Star Route, Box 194, Vineland, Minnesota 56359 (612) 532-4181

eating a well balance meal nor would they be as health concious as they are.

We currently have approximately 130 eligible seniors for the program with about 102 who actively participate on a daily basis in one form or another. We provide both congregate and home delivered meals in all three Districts but, our outlaying districts rely on volunteers and the CHR Program to help deliver home-delivered meals. District I does have a 16 passenger van which picks up participents and also delivers meals to the home-bound. We are feeding approximately 89 congregate meals and 29 home delivered meals on a daily basis in all three Districts.

In referance to your question regarding what the proposed budget reductions would to our program and the services we are currently offering it would be devastating. Last year we alone took a $17,000.00 cut in our funding and had to reduce the number of hours which the feeding sites were open down to 5 hours per day where previously they were open 8. Services (referral and otherwise) have not really been effected by the cuts because here at Mille Lacs with the re-organization of the programs we are able take up any of the slak but then again all programs are facing budget cuts this year and we really do not know what the outcome of this will be at this time. The Elders are kept well informed about all of the program changes and proposed budget cuts and are really scared about the future for themselves and their children.

I would like to note that the Senior Citizens here at Mille Lacs take an active interest in their feeding program and are willing to fight for what they believe is right. All proposals regarding the Elderly are presented to them for their review and input and finalization before they are submitted to the Federal funding agency. They are the ones who are responsible for ensuring that they are getting all of the services available to them and are willing to question and ask why if they are suppose to be getting something why they are not. They speak freely as to whats on their mind and do not pull any punches, if something is not right they ask why and try to get the situation corrected. Many of the Seniors are willing to get involved in various situations and give themselves freely to a cause in which they believe in.

I hope that the information in this letter is what you are looking for and if you need any more please feel free to contact me. We are currently planning on starting a Bingo operation run solely by Senior Volunteers to generate funds for various activities and to assist with the feeding program as they do not want to see any of the services cut. One of the propsed activities would be sending about 30 Seniors to the National Conferance in September and many are looking forward to attending. Again if you need any more information please do not hesitate to call. Good Luck with the testimony and I hope it will help because our Seniors are very important to us.

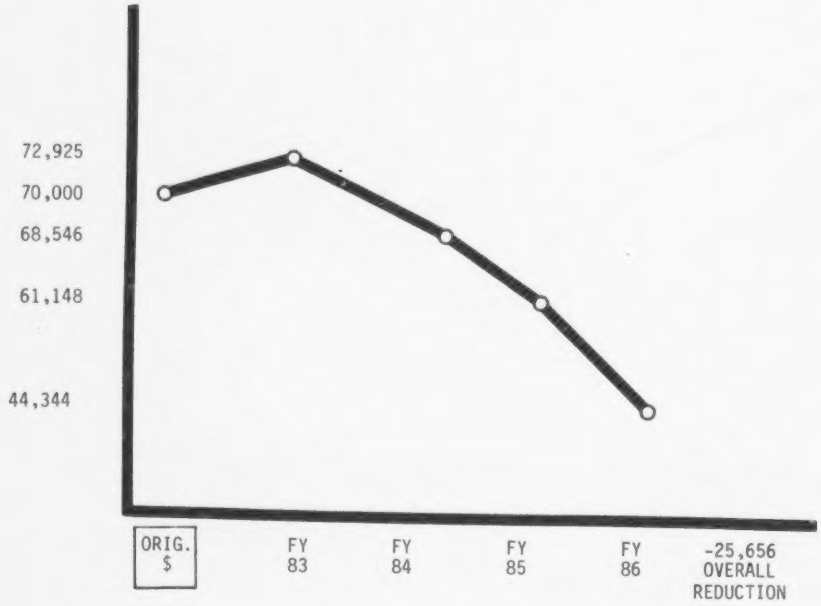
Valeree Perlick, Contracting Officer

Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians Title VI Elderly Nutrition Fiscal Information

FUNDING YEAR	GRANT AMOUNT	INCREASE	DECREASE	NOTES
Oct. 1, 1980	$ 70,000.00			First year funding for Titl VI Elderly Program.
Oct. 1, 1981	$ 72,000.00	$ 2,000.00		Additional Districts added Feeding Program.
Oct. 1, 1982	$ 72,925.00	$ 925.00		Additional Federal Dollars available.
Oct. 1, 1983	$ 68,546.00		$ 4,379.00	Federal dollars reduced because of appropriation reductions.
	Same year			
Oct. 1, 198~~4~~3	$ 68,546.00			~~No change in grant amount.~~
Oct. 1, 198~~3~~4	$ 61,158.00		$ 7,388.00	Federal dollers reduced because of appropriation reductions.
Oct. 1, 198~~6~~5	$ 44,344.00		$16,814.00	Grant reduced because of ad itional Tribes were added t Title VI Program and Federa appropriations stayed the same.
Oct. 1, 1987 6	* $ 38,000.00		* $ 6,344.00	* See below.

* At this time we still have not received any notification as to what the FY'87 Grant amount will be. I have been told that with the Gramm-Rudmen Bill a 4.3% cut will be taken of this years funding level of $ 44,344.00 which amounts to approximately $ 2,000.00 decrease in my grant amount. We have also been informed that 10 new Tribes have been considered for funding. If this is allowed (appropriations staying at the same level) I have been told that an additional $ 2,000.00 to $ 4,000.00 may also be decreased on my grant amount. Which means that I will have approximately a $ 6,300.00 grant decrease which I cannot readily afford.

MILLE LACS BAND OF CHIPPEWA, OK



SERVICES CUT

Hours of operation reduced

Travel cut

Anxiety expressed on the part of the elders

22% unserved

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING
ROUTE 7, BOX 21
PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI 39350
TELEPHONE (601) 656-5251

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1986

May 30, 1986

Dear Ms. White:

Enclosed please find the information you requested for the hearing to be held in Oklahoma on June 28, 1986.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call on me at (601) 656-5251, Ext 348.

Sincerely,

Lena Denson

Lena Denson, Director
Title VI Social & Nutrition

LD/ld

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
Mr. Steve Wilson, Chairman

"CHOCTAW SELF-DETERMINATION"

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

TITLE VI SOCIAL & NUTRITION

A. Original funding level	1980	$75,000
B. Yearly Budget	1981	75,000
	1982	75,925
	1983	75,000
	1984	70,500
	1985	75,000
	01/1986	62,849
	03/1986	60,146

C. Show the cuts over the years

1983 -	$ 925	
1984 -	4,500	
1986	12,151	
3/86 -	2,703	Additional cut for 1986

D. Services cut due to budget decrease

1. Home visits
2. Referrals
3. Consultation
4. Transportation
5. Field trips outside the Choctaw reservation
6. Cook-outs

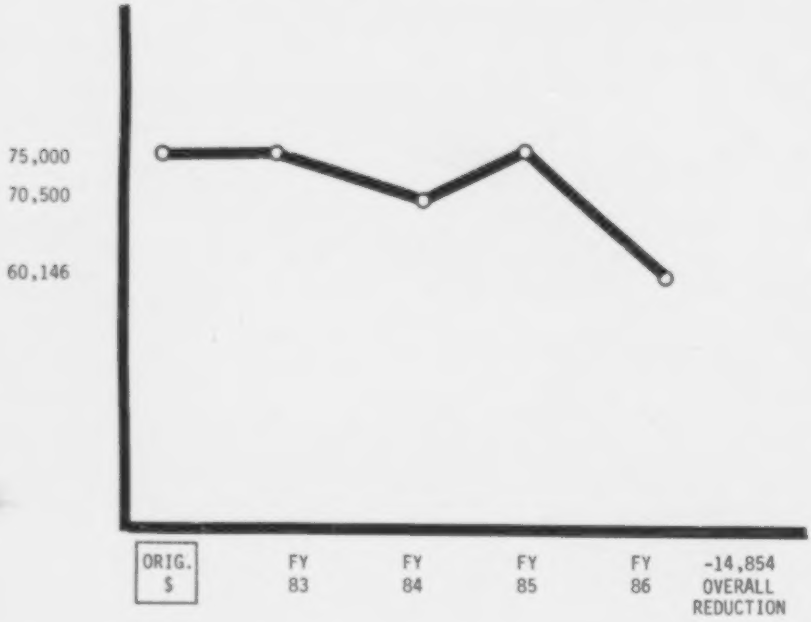
E. Number of Elderly served - 174

F. Number of Eldlery not being served/underserved - Approximately 200

What is the impact of budget cuts to your 1987 T-6 Budget.

1. Elderly participation in the program has dwindled.
2. We can only provide limited services with limited funds. For example we have cut down on field trips, referrals, and material purchases.
3. Our van is worn out but we are unable to replace it. The odometer reading is 100,000 miles.
4. The already underfunded program is unable to withstand any more cuts. We have been begging and borrowing personnel just to keep our "hot meal" program in operation.

MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS, MISSISSIPPI



SERVICES CUT

Reduced participation

Referrals cut

Supplies and materials reduced

Transportation needed

54% unserved

WOHEHIV
Morning Star

Northern Cheyenne
Elderly Program
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

CLAUDINE CANO
Director
WENDELINE NEISS
Ass't. Director
Phone (406) 477 6284
ext. 250

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1986

May 27, 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Cook,

Enclosed is the Title VI budget information you have requested. I hope this information will be of some help.

I do wish you success in your endeavors. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to call my office.

Respectfully,

Claudine Cano

Claudine Cano, Director
Northern Cheyenne Elderly Program

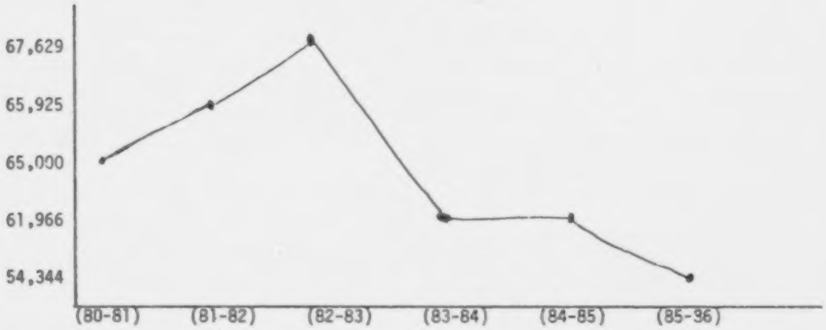
The Northern Cheyenne Program was first funded under Title VI in 1980, then we had approximately 75 Elders being served. Today the number of Elderly served is 124. About 10% of our Elderly are not being served due to drastic budget decrease. The service cuts based on the budget decrease are:

1. Nutritional service
3. Vehicle Operation
2. Transportation
4. Administration

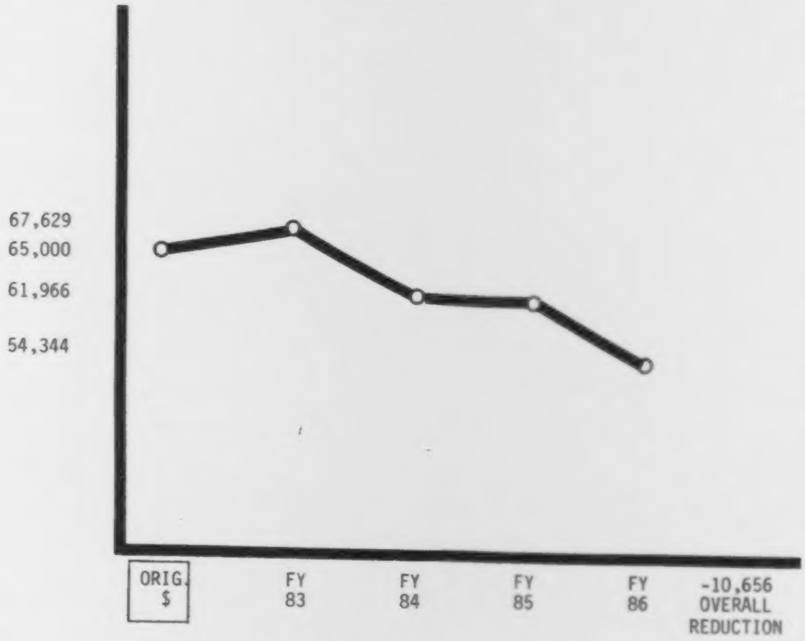
For the 1986-87 fiscal year is still the possibility of being cut again which will cripple our Program, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Elderly Program .

Grant No. 90-AL-0049

Title VI 13655



NORTHERN CHEYENNE, MT



SERVICES CUT

Administrative costs cut

Transportation cut

Operation of nutrition vehicle

10% unserved

PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE
PEOPLE OF THE DAWN

Pleasant Point Reservation
PERRY, MAINE 04667

RECEIVED
MAY 27 1986

May 20, 1986

TO: Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

FR: Frances K. Nicholas
Title VI Director
Pleasant Point Health Center
P. O. Box 351
Perry, Maine 04667

Dear Mr. Cook:

Enclosed is the information about the Title VI Funding since 1981 through 1986. This information includes budgets, and the cuts over the last (6) years. The services that were cut and the number of elderly served and impact of budget cuts in 1987 for Title VI:

1981	$65,000.00	75 Elderly
1982	$65,000.00	76 Elderly
1983	$65,975.00	79 Elderly
1984	$63,000.00	83 Elderly
1985	$63,732.00	86 Elderly
1986	$42,849.00	102 Elderly
1987	$40,702.00	105 Elderly

Everything was keep in the proposal until 1986. The Title VI quarterly workshop were taken out and the four quarterly trips a year. The Title VI quarterly workshop served about 45 elderly a quarter. The four trips a year which was done quarterly serviced about 14 elderly a quarter. The Title VI Director hours were cut to 24 hours a week in the 1986 grant and the Title VI Liaison hours were cut to 20 hours a week.

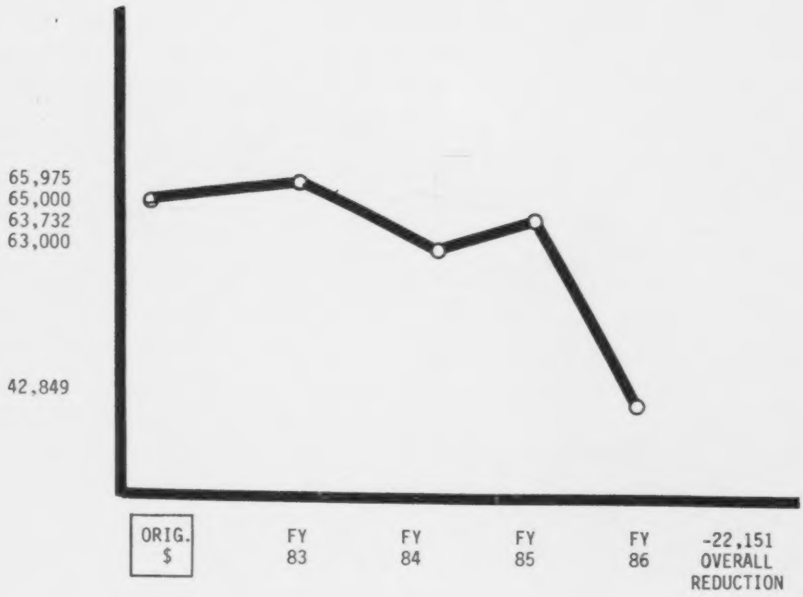
The 1987 budget of $40,702.00 and the 105 elderly to be serviced is in jeopardy because there is not enough money to pay the Director and

Liaison to provide these services. The Title VI Director would go on 15 ho a week and the Title VI Liaison would be no longer in the Title VI Grant. I feel that if were to maintain these services for our elderly that the peo in Washington should take a long hard look at what programs they are cuttin because some day they will be elderly and they are going to want these same services provided for them. Enclosing please give some concern to the elder after all they are the back bones of society. If you have any questions p contact me at (207) 853-2551 Ext 268.

Sincerely yours,

Frances K. Nicholas
Title VI Director
Passamaquoddy Tribe

PASSAMAQUODDY, MAINE



SERVICES CUT

Fewer participants serviced

Staff hours cut

May 29,1986

Route 2, Box 173-G
Mayetta, Kansas 66509

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council On Aging
PO. Box 2088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Cook;

I hope that the information I am sending you is what you want.

	Yearly Budget	Decrease	Services Cut
1980	-0-	-0-	-0-
1981	$65,000	-0-	-0-
1982	65,000	-0-	-0-
1983	65,925	-0-	-0-
1984	61,966	$3,959	-0-
1985	55,903	6,063	see
1986	44,344	11,559	below
1987	40,207	3,642	

In 1985 we had to cut home delivered meals by 500 that year and staff did not receive an increase, to transportation for clients. We also had an increase in eligible Senior Citizens moving into the new housing on the reservation. Staff also did not attend any training meetings.

In 1986, fuel was taken out completely. Two staff were cut and still more eligible Seniors were moving back.

For 1987 we had to cut back more on staff, still no fuel, and everything else.

We had 94 elderly and now it is up to 138.

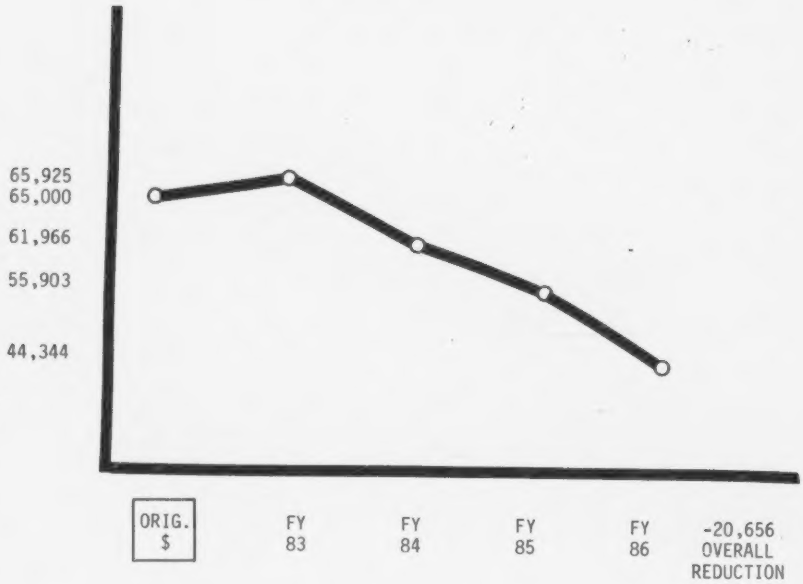
This is sent with the thought, maybe this time some thing will be done.

Sincerely;

Evelyn Hopkins

Evelyn Hopkins
Title VI ProjectDirector
Prarie Band Potawatomi

PRAIRIE BAND OF POTAWATOMI, KS



SERVICES CUT

Number of meals cut

Transportation cut

Decreased monies for van fuel

Two staff positions cut

63% unserved

RECEIVED
JUN 03 1986

Red Cliff Band Of Lake Superior Chippewas
"The Hub Of The Chippewa Nation"
RED CLIFF TRIBAL COUNCIL
Box 529
BAYFIELD, WISCONSIN 54814
(715) 779-5805

May 28, 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook, Ex. Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Cook:

This letter is written in regards to a letter received from Betty White regarding T-6 funding. Enclosed is a copy of the Red Cliff Elderly Programs information per request by Betty.

I sincerely hope that all Tribes participated.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hanson
Kathy Hanson
Elderly Program Director

Encl.

cc: Steve Wilson
Betty White

RED CLIFF BAND OF LAKE SUPERIOR CHIPPEWA
ELDERLY PROGRAM

A.) Original Funding Level - $65,000.00

B.) Other Funding Levels - $75,553.00 (Extra funds available that year)
69,163.00
64,963.00
56,458.00
44,344.00
40,702.00

Total Cut over few years - $29,419.00

C.) Services Cut Due To Decreases:

1. We served meals 5 days per week and now serve only 4 days but we also serve triple what was served in the beginning of T-6. This maybe cut to 3 days if more decreases keep coming.

2. Not one staff person works full time: Director - 15 hrs, Counselor - 10 hrs, Cook - 30 hrs, and Homemaker - 20 hrs. Nor has the staff received wage increases like other business sectors. Very little outreach is done as there is no time.

3. Transportation has been cut from 5 days to 4 days to 2 days presently except for those persons picked up for meals. The 2 days allowed are for Doctor appointments, shopping etc.

4. No recreation funds available - elderly raise their own.

5. Insurance - local agencies are reluctant to insure a vehicle used for elderly persons. We pay over $2100 per year for one vehicle and are allowed a radius of 50 miles only. This cuts a lot out of our program dollars received.

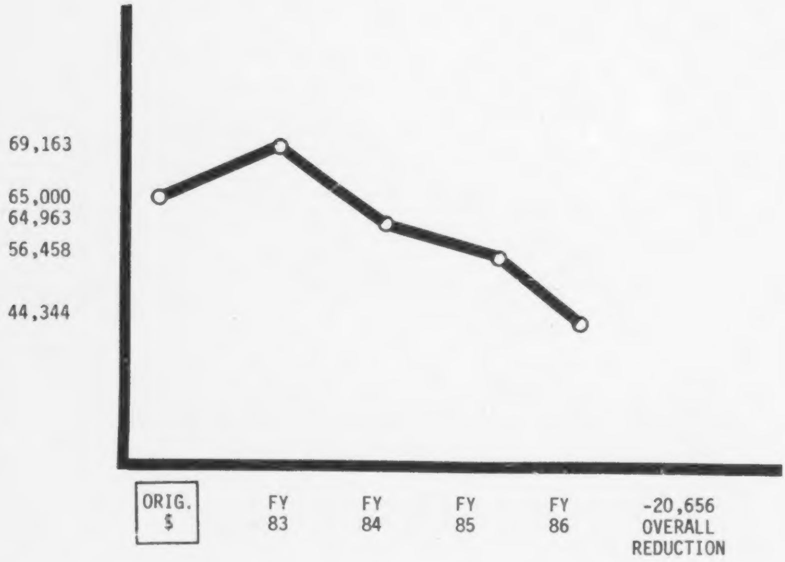
6. We have had to cut Office/Kitchen rent as there is not enough funds to pay a decent rate, we rent from the Housing Authority.

D.) We started with 75 elderly, presently we have 109!

E.) Due to limited hours we cannot always do outreach, informing new elderly of program services etc. Of the 109 approximately 60 have participated at one time or another. The others don't because of grandchildren, don't know about the program or feel they shouldn't participate.

The T-6 program cannot keep receiving cuts, its a very beneficial and viable program for our people. More elders are starting to use it, however, I am afraid that if it keeps getting cut each year it will fade out completely.

RED CLIFF BAND OF CHIPPEWA, WIS



SERVICES CUT

Meals delivered cut

Staff hours cut

Transportation cut

45% unserved

RECEIVED
MAY 22 1986
RECEIVED

TITLE VI GRANTEE

History of Funding Survey

Tribe: San Felipe Pueblo

Title VI Director: Emily Velasquez

Address: P.O. Box A San Felipe, NM 87001

Telephone #: 505-867-4693

New Grantee

First year of Title VI funding (date): April 1, 1985

Amount of first year grant: $52,849.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 85

Number unserved: 57

Amount of second year grant: $42,821.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 89

Number unserved: 91

Reason for not serving all: Budget cuts and transportation problem.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Supportive services are cut back, and mainly set back on raw food. As a results of this we cannot go out to encourage more participation.

Amount of third year grant:

Number of (unduplicated) elders served:

Number unserved:

Reason for not serving all:

Additional comments regarding funding/problems you may be experiencing, technical assistance needs, etc.

Attach is a narrative of our need assessment. Basically if budget cuts is going to continue, I for one will not have the heart to tell our elders that our government once again did not keep his committments.

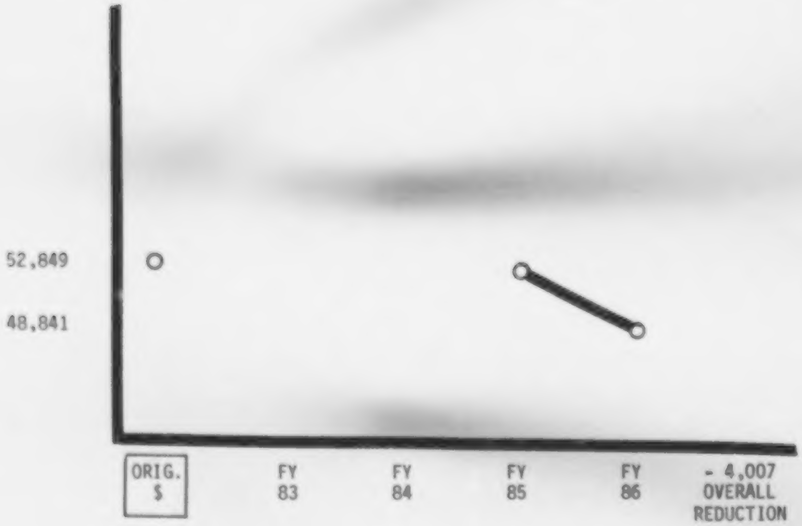
We have just begun to provide service to our elders to eliminate their frustrations, if budget cuts are to contine the lets get NACI to conduct a series of technical assistance on fund raising.

Please return to:

Gerrie Norton, Title VI Director
Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74820
405/436-2603

Return by:
May 16, 1986

SAN FELIPE PUEBLO, N.M.



SERVICES CUT

No outreach

No supportive services

50% unserved

RECEIVED
JUN 09 19[illegible]

Hi Curtis,

Heres my report and sure hope I didint leave any thing out. If you have any questions in regards to it, please feel free to call me. 852-4516

Take Care & God Bless You

J. Binford

P. O. BOX 1099
SAN JUAN PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO 87566
PHONE (505) 852-4400

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1986

June 2, 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box #2088
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

Dear Mr. Cook:

For the past 12 years the Pueblo of San Juan has been providing the Elders with a nutritional hot noon meal. Our program grant in 1980 was $70,000 and at that time we had 163 who qualified for the Elderly Hot Meal Program.

In 1980 our program provided noon meals 5 days a week, both to the home bound and congregate. Some of the services provided to our Elders in 1980, were:

1. Transportation to and from Legal Services Offices, for any problems they may have.

2. Transportation to and from Human Services Department in nearby communities. If any problems arised with State Offices in regards to SS/SSI etc. than the center provided transportation to all the hearings in Santa Fe (35 miles) or Albuquerque (90 miles).

3. The Elder's fees for conferences, meals & even accomodations were paid in the 1980 Title VI Budget.

4. In 1980, the Program also furnished supplies for Arts & Crafts.

5. The staff was able to work 40 hours a week with salaries of $2,000 more than they are making now.

6. Groceries, paying bills, trip was also provided on a weekly basis.

At present we are operating on a $54,344.00 budget, this is $10,000 less than last year. Home delivered and congregate meals are now served only 4 days a week. We also have had an increase in home-delivered meals because most of our seniors are in their eighties. Elders in the eighties also meant frail health and consequently they are homebound, which meant an increase in our kitchen supplies, (again added expense) on gasoline, mileage and maintenance to the van.

Last year we served 5,962 congregate meals and 7,024 home delivered, 4 days a week. This is a substantial increase from 1980. In 1980, 1,040 trays were delivered to the homebound five days a week.

At present we have to charge the Seniors a $2.00 fee to help pay for transportation to traditional Feast Days (which is a traditional cultural social gathering among the Pueblo Indians where traditional native dances take place all day).

The weekly shopping trips for groceries and payment of bills, etc. have been cut to twice a month, which is a added burden to the Seniors because friends or relatives who can afford to provide transportation to the elders are often working and unable to take them without a loss of needed income.

We no longer provide transportation to State Services such as Social Security, Human Services, etc. We now are trying to help our people thru referral, utilizing the phone or letters. Since the center can no longer transport the Elders to certain workshops or pay for their conference fees, the center tries to compensate by providing the workshops for the Seniors on services available to them such as Social Security, Food Stamps, Commodities, Nutrition, prescription drug identification and side effects. However, due to State and Federal program cuts, it is increasingly harder to get these individuals to come to rural communities like ours.

The arts & crafts supplies are no longer provided by the center. The seniors have to provide their own supplies or look for other sources.

For FY 86-87 we will be operating on a 50,000 budget and if funding cuts continue to drop at this rate we will be unable to operate effectively. Funding cuts from the Gramm-Rudman-Holling Act has put our Title VI Program in a critical situation and the hardship will again be felt by the staff; as the cuts will come out of the personnals, fringe benefits. Last year the staff were cut on salaries by $2,000 each and this qualified the staff for food stamps etc. The head cook is now only making $6,677.00 per year, Assistant Cook $5,590.00 and this is the only source of income this individuals have. We do not feel it is fair to ask these individuals to take further cuts in these minimal salaries, thus we must make up the new reductions elsewhere. First, we will have to elimate the staff's fringe benefits. Next, we will have to cut even deeper into the food budget. Even these steps may not be enough.

In the future we find that we will be in need of a new van since our present van's mileage is at a point that it is in constant need of repair and the cost of maintenance is very high. We find that because of the increase of home delivered meals that it will be necessary to cut down shopping and bill paying trips to once a month and eliminate feast day trips completely in order to try and keep the mileage of the van down.

If this continues we will be forced to charge the Seniors a fee for their meals, which will force some of them out of the program. The 1980 HUD Demographic Study shows that the per capita income in San Juan Pueblo is $3187, compared to $7500 for the state as a whole. The 1982 JOM Income Survey indicates that 1287 of the Pueblo's 1907 residents are below the poverty guidelines established by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The basic need for services under this program is clearly jusified by the general level of economic hardship in San Juan.

We must continue to provide services which our Indian Elders need, and maintain the quality of services that we've been building over the past years. As Title VI service providers, we must convince decision makers that we are in dire need, and that further cuts in the program will cost unmeasurable pain.

Respectfully,

Josephine Binford
Josephine Binford
Director
San Juan Senior Citizens

cc: Steve Wilson
Betty White
Eileen Lujan
Governor Richard Martinez
File

[illegible]
P.O. Box 580
Espanola, NM 87532
505 - 753 - 7326
Ext 256

TITLE VI GRANTEE

History of Funding Survey

Tribe: SANTA CLARA PUEBLO

Title VI Director: JANICE K. NARANJO

Address: P. O. BOX 560, ESPANOLA, NEW MEXICO 87532

Telephone #: (505) 753-7326 EXT. 256

First year of Title VI funding (date): 1980-81

Amount of first year grant: $65,000.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 91

Number unserved: 146

Amount of second year grant: 1981-82 $65,000.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 91

Number unserved: 146

Reason for not serving all: NO OUT-REACH WORKER TO DO JUST OUT-REACH.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback:

Amount of third year grant: 1982-83 $67,925.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 117

Number unserved: 120

Reason for not serving all: NO OUT-REACH WORKER ON STAFF.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback:

Amount of fourth year grant: 1983-84 $66,720.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 118

Number unserved: 119

Reason for not serving all: Not ENOUGH MONEY TO HIRE OUT-REACH WORKER, NO MONEY FOR MILAGE, ETC.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: WE COULD HAVE DONE LOTS MORE TO SERVE THE ELDERLY, IF WE HAD THE MANPOWER, HOWEVER, WE AS STAFF WERE LIMITED BECAUSE OF LACK OF RESOURCES.

Amount of fifth year grant: 1984-85 $65,422.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 150

Number unserved: 87

Reason for not serving all: NOT ENOUGH STAFF. ONE POSITION WAS CUT DUE TO BUDGET CUT. WE WERE SERVING MOR PEOPLE WITH LESS MONEY AND WORKING MORE OVER-TIME HOURS.

Services curtailed due to budget cutbacks: MONEY FOR TRAVEL WAS NO LONGER AVAILABLE FOR STAFF. FOOD LINE ITEM WAS CUT AND WE COULD NOT SERVE THE KIND OF MEALS WHICH WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO.

Additional comments regarding funding/problems you may be experiencing, technical assistance needs, etc.

I KNOW ALL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN CUT DRASTICALLY, I ONLY WANTED TO ADD MY TWO CENTS WORTH AND LET YOU KNOW OUR FUNDING FOR FY 86-87 IS $50,272.00. WE WILL AGAIN HAVE TO CUT ANOTHER STAFF POSITION, NO TRAVEL MONEY WHATSOEVER, NO MONEY FOR LOCAL TRAVEL OR PER DIEM, MINIMUM MONIES FOR GAS/VAN MAINTAINENCE, MINIMUM MONIES FOR KITCHEN SUPPLIES, AND FINALLY, WE ARE CONSIDERING CLOSING THE CENTER ONE DAY A WEEK. IN THE EVENT THAT WE DO CLOSE ONE DAY A WEEK, THE FOLLOWING SERVICES WILL BE CUT AS CLOSE AS I CAN FIGURE:

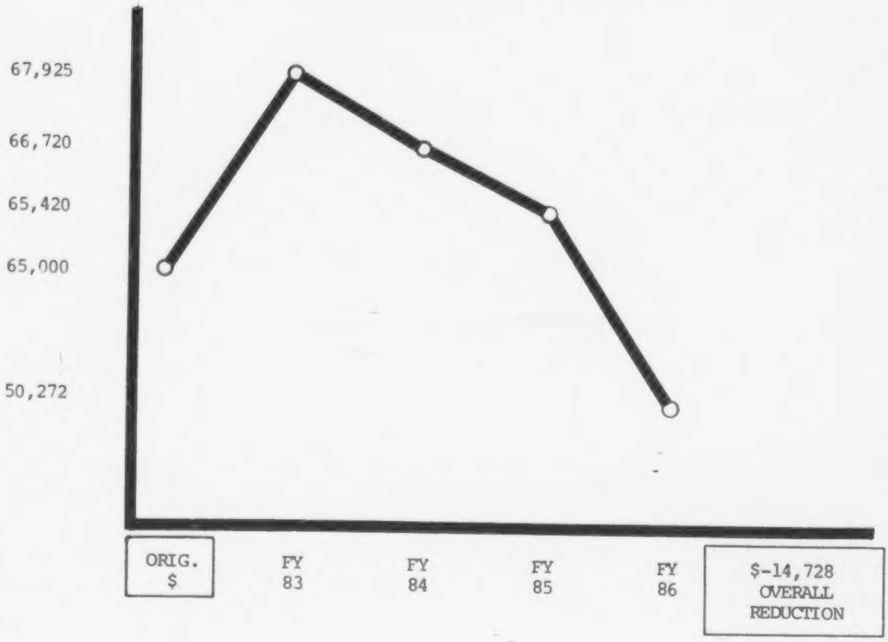
TRANSPORTATION 2,600 UNITS
INFORMATION & REFERRAL 9,000 UNITS
NUTRITION 2,650 MEALS

Please return to:

Gerrie Norton, Title VI Director
Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74820
405/436-2603

Return by: May 16, 1986

SANTA CLARA PUEBLO N.M. 6/86



SERVICES CUT

No outreach worker

Limited transportation

Will close one day per week

Food budget cut - fewer meals

Staff working over-time without compensation

37% of elders unserved

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1986

TITLE VI GRANTEE

History of Funding Survey

Tribe: Santo Domingo Pueblo

Title VI Director: Reyecita Aguilar

Address: Title VI Aging Program AOA P.O Box 9
Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico 87052

Telephone #: (505) 465-2214 ext. 14

First year of Title VI funding (date): 1980

Amount of first year grant: $70,000.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 125

Number unserved: 98

Amount of second year grant: $70,000.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 154

Number unserved: 105

Reason for not serving all: There was not enough money.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: The program had to cutback on transportation, feeding, and other services.

Amount of third year grant: $66,666.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 164

Number unserved: 105

Reason for not serving all: The program did not recieve enough money.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: The program had to cutback on transportation, feeding, and other services.

Amount of fourth year grant: $74,941.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 289

Number unserved: 655

Reason for not serving all: There was not enough money.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: The program had to cutback on transportation, feeding, and other services.

Amount of fifth year grant: $64,344.00

Number of (unduplicated) elders served:

Number unserved:

Reason for not serving all:

Services curtailed due to budget cutbacks:

Additional comments regarding funding/problems you may be experiencing, technical assistance needs, etc.

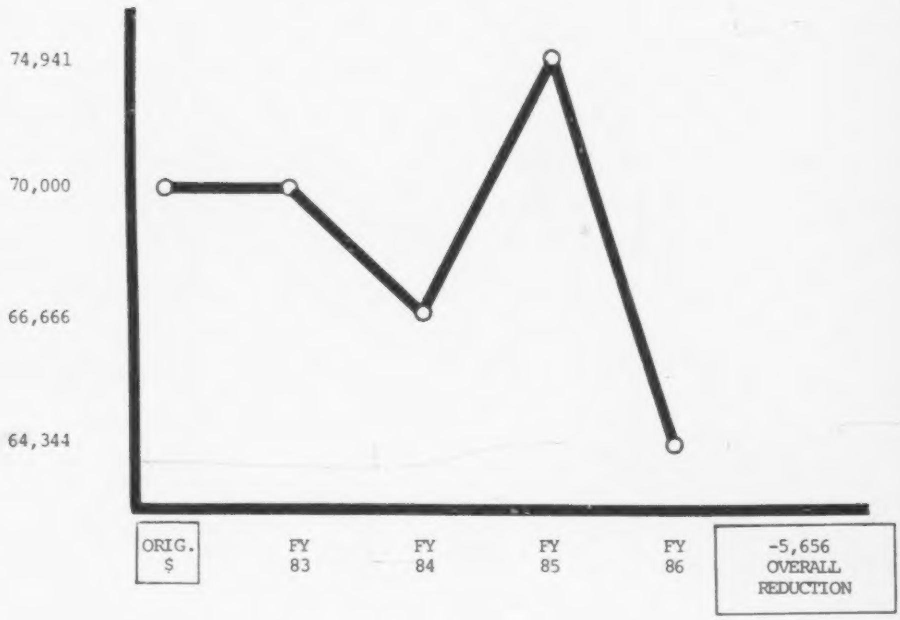
With this cutbacks we had to cut on transportation, feeding, and other services. We have cut our working hours and less staff. We also had to cutback on the feeding days. Which the elderly will miss because they are use to our services. With this cutbacks we will not be able to much for the elderly and the program. So I ask; Why should they cut?

Please return to:

Gerrie Norton, Title VI Director
Chickasaw Nation
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74820
405/436-2603

Return by:
May 16, 1986

SANTO DOMINGO PUEBLO N.M. 6/86



SERVICES CUT

Transportation cut back

Fewer meals served

Serving fewer days (from 5 to 4)

Reduced staff

77% of elders unserved

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
OLDER AMERICAN PROGRAM
CYNTHIA SPRAKER
DIRECTOR TITLE VI
MARIE SCOTT
KITCHEN SUPERVISOR
ANNA BEMO
OUTREACH CONSULTANT
P O BOX 1498
WEWOKA, OKLA 74884
(405) 257-6917

RECEIVED
JUN 09 1986

June 3, 1986

Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Dear Mr. Cook:

I am enclosing a history of funding, etc., from the Seminole Nation Title VI Program. The elders in our service area were pleased to hear that there was a spokesman who will speak in their behalf. Thank you for sharing this information in your testimony for the elders of our country.

If there are any questions or assistance, please don't hesitate to ask, I will be more than glad to help.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Spraker

Cynthia Spraker, Director
Seminole Nation Older American Program

cc: Principal Chief, Edwin Tanyan
Files

TITLE VI GRANTEE

History of Funding Survey

Tribe: Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Title VI Director: Cynthia Spraker

Address: P.O. Box 1498, Wewoka, OK 74884

Telephone #: (405) 257-6917

FY '81

First year of Title VI funding (date): September 30, 1980

Amount of first year grant: 75,000

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 90

Number unserved: 278

Amount of second year grant: 77,000 FY '82

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 88

Number unserved: 284

Reason for not serving all: The Nutrition Center was inaccessible because the majority of participants resided in rural areas with no transportation including bad road conditions. Transportation for elders was limited. Tribe unable to assist because lack of funds.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: There was not enough vehicles for transportation or enough funds for staffing, food purchases, kitchen equipment and inadequate services for elders whose needs remained unaddressed and unmet.

Amount of third year grant: 77,925 FY '83

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 95

Number unserved: 284

Reason for not serving all: Bad road conditions, limited transportation services, inaccessible nutrition site, elders unable to participate because of personal financial bind (gas money or no transportation). Service area could not be thoroughly covered for transportation or delivery of meals to unserved elders due to lack of vehicles. There were no tribal monies available.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Staffing cuts, transportation routes curtailed (road conditions and shortage of funds) program site was economical and on tribal property, but was inaccessible for a number of eligible elders in the service area. Unability to provide adequate nutritional services to all eligible elders.

FY '84

Amount of fourth year grant: 73,246

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 98

Number unserved: 341

Reason for not serving all: More Seminolde elders returning home from out-of-state increasing numbers and comprehensive services delivery remaining unstable. Elderly remaining on deprivation list for needs and services unmet.

Services curtailed due to budget cutback: Unability to serve all eligible Native American elders in the service area because of inadequate funding and tribal assets depleted.

FY '85

Amount of fifth year grant: 93,224 — FY '85 / FY '86

Number of (unduplicated) elders served: 100 / 240 operating only 4 days/wk 125 meals per day

Number unserved: 434 / 353

Reason for not serving all: Elderly population increasing (more 60 years +) and migrating elders. Tribal government unable to assist with funds but contributed through in kind contributions.

Services curtailed due to budget cutbacks: Not enough funds for a comprehensive elderly program services for the Seminole Nation elders and other Native American elders residing in the service boundary.

Per phone conversation on 6/23
Director's position is @ 1/2 salary
w/ lay-off 3 staff because of cuts (2 cooks, 1 sec'y.)
Services now only 4 days/week
Serve 240 elders, 353 unserved

Additional comments regarding funding/problems you may be experiencing, technical assistance needs, etc. Title VI programs have a history of inadequate funding to tribes for the Indian elderly. The elderly population continues to show an incline trend with more healthier lifestyles that is largely due to nutritional values associated with T-6 congregate and meals on wheels services. Seminole Nation T-6 nutrition program reaches eligible elders who receives information, referral, nutritional meals, health education to increase awareness of healthier lifestyle changes that will decrease high cost of hospital and doctor bills. Funding problems will show decrease of T-6 services delivery and increase hospitalization and cost of health services to Indian elders. Nutrition is the basis of health and lack of nutrition may mean destruction of healthy people (Chronic disease, etc.). The Seminole Nation T-6 needs technical assistance to train staff, advisory boards, elderly community and other professional people who lack information or knowledge of T-6 programs and what it means to the Indian elderly; to receive the training and utilize the expertise to the maximum for the benefit of the elderly. T-6 funds are so small that the tribes have to hire non-professionals and try to train them to do expert professional work (which is very difficult) in the program. Meals have to be cut back because of less funding, transportation is cut back or cut, staffing shortage, supportive services decreased in this tribal elderly program. Our elders are the backbone of the Seminole Nation and are proud people. The Seminole Nation elders are United States citizens of this great country and deserves dignity, health and well being, just as worthy and equal to the non-Indian elders of this country. There must be an equalization of all services and funding across the board for all elders of the United States of America.

Seminole Nation has 245 Indian elderly participants to-date(1986) and increasing. Every available dollar going to purchases of meals and food delivery. The Indian elders needs are still unmet. The unmet needs are: chore services or providers, advocacy and language interpretation and other services essential to the health and well being of the Indian elderly. The budget has been revised several times to try and stretch the funds and more cuts are seen-creating less service availability to the Older Americans.

Note: Figures of the elderly population are estimated due to the migration and age increase of the elders (60+), research statistical collection from BIA, IHS and tribal data.
The 1980 Census statistics were included.
The 245 participants of the current T-6 program is a true figure, Population In-elders - over the

STOCKBRIDGE - MUNSEE
BAND OF MOHICAN INDIANS

STOCKBRIDGE - MUNSEE COMMUNITY
Route 1 Phone Bowler (715) 793-4111
BOWLER, WISCONSIN 54416

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1986

May 8, 1986

Mr. Steve Wilson
℅ Creek Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Steve:

Attached is the information that you requested regarding the Stockbridge-Munsee Elderly Program.

Also, I sent you the information on the Sept. 23,24, & 25, 1986 conference at Red Cliff. Perhaps you can speak with Kathy Hansen, Red Cliff Aging Director about doing a presentation on the Oklahoma aging programs.

Please continue to keep our program informed.

Sincerely,

Laura Coyhis

Laura Coyhis
Elderly Director

TITLE VI FUNDING LEVELS

10-1-81	-	9-30-82	$81,729
9-30-82	-	9-29-83	72,925
9-30-83	-	9-29-84	77,045
9-30-84	-	9-29-85	66,384
9-30-85	-	9-29-86	54,344

NUMBER OF ELDERLY SERVED
55 years old

1985 Oct. - April - 1,538 Congregate meals served

635 Home delivered meals

Unduplicated people served: - 70 Congregate meals

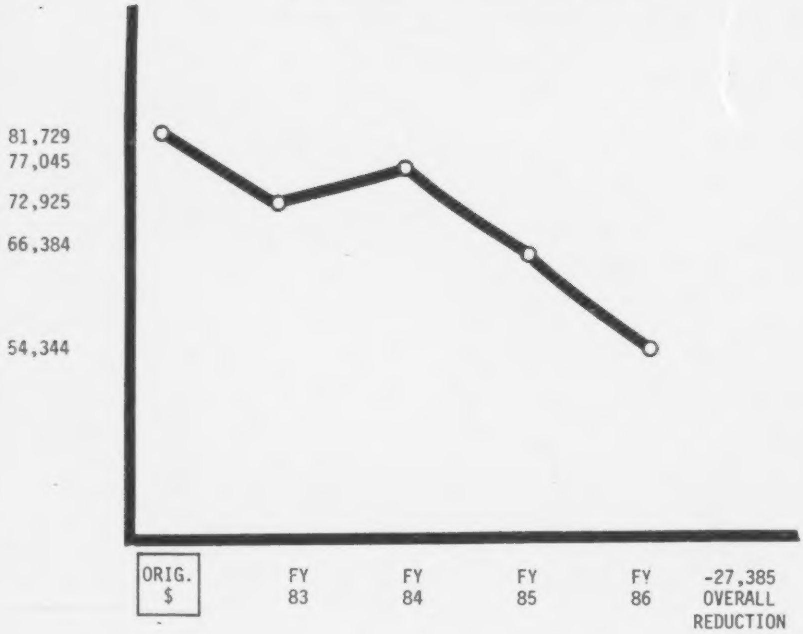
6 Home delivered meals

Under Served: 76

Services no longer served:
- Chore
- Shopping trips
- Recreation
- Outreach
- Salad bar
- Peer gatherings
- National, State Aging
- Legal services
- garden projects

Septic pumping

STOCKBRIDGE-MUNSEE MOHICANS, WISCONSIN



SERVICES CUT

No outreach

No peer gatherings

No representative at the State level

Legal services cut

69% unserved

RECEIVED
JUN 02 1986

MAY 29,1986

Dear Mr Cook,

The Turtle Mountain Tribal Senior Meals Program is enclosing the information for your testimony in Okalahoma on Aging on June 28,1986.

If you need more information,Please contact me.

Sincerely,

Rita Allery

Rita Allery
Project Director
Senior Meals Program
P.O.Box 900
Belcourt,N.Dak.58316
(701)477-6609

Enclosure
CC; STEVE WILSON,CHAIRMAN
    BETTY WHITE

A. Funding level in 1985
   $90,000

B. Yearly Budget
   $90,000

C. There was A 4.3% cut for 1986

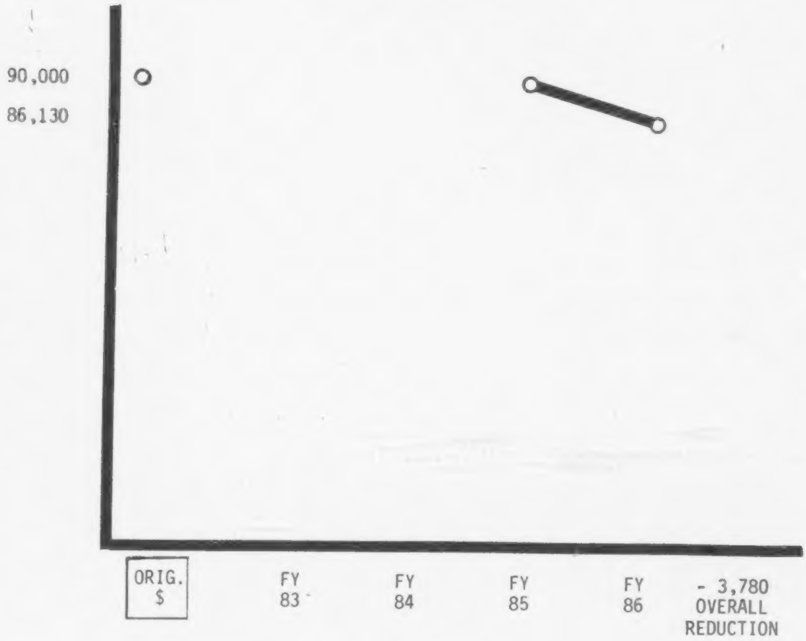
D. There was A cut on Equipment for the Kitchen,the Senior Meals Program will have to rely on donations that come from other sources.

E. The Program is serving approximately 356 elderly

F. The number of Elderly not being served is 210.

The impact of the Budget cut to the 1987 T-6 program,The Meals Program will not be able to serve all the Elderly that was suppose to. The Program will have to stay on a tight budget.

TURTLE MOUNTAIN SIOUX, N.D.



SERVICES CUT

Kitchen equipment needed

Administrative costs cut

Fewer participants overall

37% unserved

AAOA
OF WASHINGTON

YAKIMA TRIBAL
AREA AGENCY ON AGING
P. O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948
Phone: (509) 865-5121 Ext. 481 thru Ext. 486

TITLE VI HISTORY

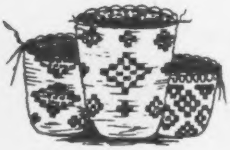
Yakima Indian Nation

Since the inception of the Title VI appropiations, this program has experienced four budget cuts, each year since 1983 the Title VI program has had to reduce many of the basic services needed.

First of all the salaries of the program director, bookkeeper and secretary was pro-rated, but that was cut to keep employed the site manager, van driver and two part-time cooks, 1-outreach.

Than in 1984, the outreach person was deleted but the job duties of the van driver than included outreach activities. Now there are just the site manager and combination, van driver, outreach, and cook. One nutrition site was closed, so the one cook was released. Now Title VI provides a traditional meal once a week in a congregate setting, with frozen meals delivered the other four days per week. A total of $25,223.00 has been cut since 1983. A total of 55 persons are not being served and 30 being underserved.

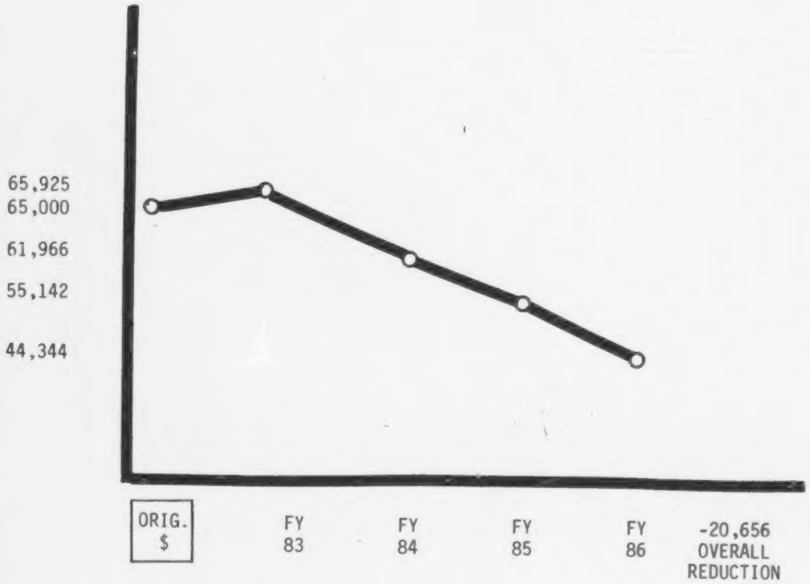
The Yakima Indian Nation Title VI program has been plague with problems due to the distance involved. Such as the Title VI office is 55 miles south of the main office, with the one remaining nutrition site being approximately 100 miles southeast of the main office. During the winter months weather conditions are very harsh, making home visits next to impossible.



Yakima Indian Nation Title VI Elderly Nutrition Fiscal Information

Funding Year	Grant Amount	Increase	Decrease	Notes
Oct. 1, 1980	$ 65,000.00			First year funding for Title VI Elderly Progr
Oct. 1, 1981	$ 65,000.00			Same level as previous year.
Oct. 1, 1982	$ 65,925.00	$ 925.00		Additional federal dol available.
Oct. 1, 1983	$ 61,966.00		(3,959)	Federal dollars reduce because of appropriati reductions.
Oct. 1, 1984	$ 55,422.00		(6,544)	Federal dollars reduce because of appropriati reductions.
Oct. 1, 1985	$ 44,344.00		(11,078)	Grant reduced because additional Tribes adde to Title VI program an Federal appropriations stayed the same.
Oct. 1, 1986	$ 40,702.00		(3,642)	This includes 4.3% reduction for Gramn-Rudm. bill and cut to fund additional new grantee

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON



SERVICES CUT

One site closed

Salaries cut

Outreach workers cut out

1 day of congregate meals

4 days of home delivered meals

55% unserved

PUEBLO OF ZUNI
P. O. BOX 339
ZUNI, NEW MEXICO 87327

CHAUNCEY SIMPLICIO
Governor
SEFFERINO ERIACHO, SR.
Lt. Governor
ROGER TSABETSAYE
Hd. Councilman
HARRY CHIMONI
Councilman

RITA ENOTE LORENZO
Councilwoman
LOWELL PANTEAH
Councilman
CHARLES HUSTITO
Councilman
KEN WATO
Councilman

In reply refer to:

May 27, 1986

Ms. Betty White
Yakima Tribe
Area Agency on Aging
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

Dear Ms. White:

Enclosed is the information that you requested from our program, Zuni Title VI Program.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Sally Natewa, Title VI Director at (505) 782-4938.

Sincerely,

Chauncey Simplicio
Governor, Pueblo of Zuni

Enclosure

cc: Judith Perry
Choctaw Nation
Drawer 1210
Durant, Oklahoma 74701

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1986
AREA AGENCY ON AGING

9/30/80 - 9/29/81	$ 87,500
9/30/81 - 9/29/82	$ 106,486
1/1/82 - 12/31/82	$ 122,491
1/1/83 - 12/31/83	$ 87,500
1/1/84 - 12/31/84	$ 85,665
1/1/85 - 12/31/85	$ 96,384
1/1/86 - 12/31/86	$ 82,849

Budget cut as of 5/23/86 - $ 3,563
Budget as of 5/23/86 - $79,286

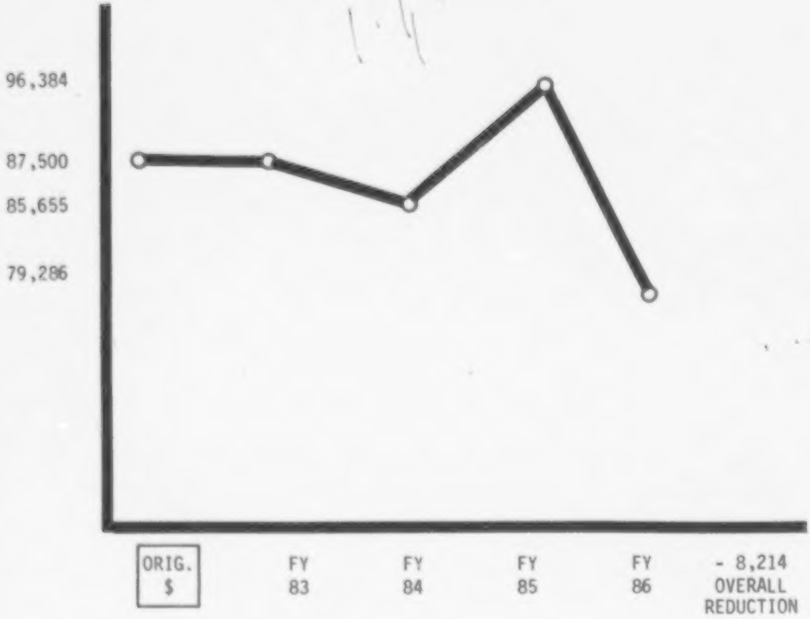
Two positions were affected due to the funding cuts in the Title VI Program.

The following services will be curtailed due to the funding cuts:

1. Recruitment of additional elderly individuals.
2. Information & Referral has already decreased.
3. Transportation services will be limited due to shortage of staff.
4. Overall services are being effected because of staff shortage.

Our total elderly population on the Zuni Indian Reservation is 600 which includes 55 years of age and older.

ZUNI PUEBLO, N.M.



SERVICES CUT

Two staff positions cut

Outreach cut

Information and referral cut

Transportation limited

Overall services cut

80% unserved

Senator **Nickles**. Thank you very much. And all of our panelists and all of our guests, I want to thank you for your attention.

A couple of people have indicated they would like to make additional comments. I have got a little bit of a problem because I am supposed to be making a speech at 12:30, so I am going to have to run.

I will keep the record open. I think a couple of people mentioned they wanted to submit a letter of statement for the record, and so we will keep the record open for additional 2 weeks.

I want to quickly thank our panelists. The statements that we heard today were very informative, educational and helpful to me. And I echo that concern. I have heard it from most of our panelists, saying that we need an advocate up there, and you will have one Senator that will be an advocate. And we will work and see if we cannot get an Indian desk there as well, and that should help. And we will work to see if we cannot get around some of the bureaucratic tieups that we are finding right now between the coordination of III and VI.

I do not see a reason why that cannot be handled, either administratively—if it has to be handled legislatively, we will handle it legislatively. But, one way or another, we are going to see if we cannot solve some of these problems and try to ensure that the programs that we have out there will work to provide the best quality of service and assistance for those people who are most in need.

With that, we will adjourn the hearing. Thank you.

[Whereupon, the committee adjourned, subject to the call of the chairman.]

APPENDIX

MATERIAL RELATED TO HEARING

Item 1

NATIONAL INDIAN POLICY ON AGING

Under Title II of the Older Americans Act the Functions of Commissioner is worded thusly: It shall be the duty and function of the Administration to--(1) serve as the effective and visible advocate for the elderly within the Department of Health and Human Services and with other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the Federal Government by maintaining active review and commenting responsibilities over all federal policies affecting the elderly;

There is no Indian Aging Policy and there will none unless all concerned individuals, Councils, organizations, and the Congress agree that the Administration should be held accountable and pursue the spirit of accord with necessary action that will result in establishment of a National Indian Policy on Aging. If this requires confrontation with the Administration at the highest level- so be it. Let's do it.

My position is also expressed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of my letter of 10-24-85 to the Executive Director of the National Indian Council on Aging; said letter is part of Attachment Brown. I will extemporize on this area of insensitivity in oral testimony. My position is further expressed in paragraph four of Mr. Steve Wilson's letter of September19, 1985 to the Honorable John Heinz.

Permit me to return to the first paragraph of this page and pose this question: How does the Commissioner apply this to older Indians?

It is abominable that the Administration would instruct the National Indian Council on Aging to to draft a National Indian Policy on Aging and when this was done in July 1984 and sent to AoA-no action was taken that we were aware of at the time Mr. Wilson,Ms. Lunsford and I met with the Commissioner in August 1985. We were given evasive answers. I learned later that AoA sent the NICOA draft to the Intra-departmental Council on Indian Affairs in July 1985! Such abject neglect extends beyond insensitivity, it is a clear lack of respect for older Indians.

ATTACHMENT BROWN includes (1) copy of Steve Wilson letter to Senator Heinz; (2) copy of my letter to Curtis Cook; (3) sample copy of narrative description of NATIONAL INDIAN POLICY ON AGING-A NEED, some Title VI Grantees have obtained elders signatures and sent copies to their senator.

Oklahoma Indian
Council on Aging

September 19, 1985

The Honorable John Heinz, Chairman
Special Committee on Aging
SD-G33 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heinz:

The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging is providing you with our impression of the Commissioner on Aging's letter to the Honorable Jeff Bingaman the date of December 7, 1984. Our Indian elders recall President Franklin Delano Roosevelt describe December 7, 1941 as a day of infamy. To the Indian elder, the Commissioner's letter contains its own veneer of infamy.

However, the December 7, 1984 letter is but another example in a consistent pattern, of the AoA purporting to respond very affirmatively to Indian concerns, but using the forked tongue to do what forked tongues have always done.

We also consider this letter an affront to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and their dedicated staff members who devote tireless effort to the service of Indian elders.

It is more than crystal clear that a National Indian Policy on Aging must be legislated by the U.S. Congress. There is no other way that input from older Indians and their respective Indian Councils on Aging will be entered into the National Policy.

Hence, we urgently appeal to you as Chairman of the Special Committee on Aging assign the Honorable Don Nickles to hold oversight hearings in Oklahoma so that the Special Committee will have benefit of up to date testimony as to the gravity of the concerns of the 20,000 older Indians in Oklahoma concerns which are aggravated by the continued insensitivity of AoA.

Please be assured that the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging stands ready to assist the Special Committee on Aging and the Congress in bringing about improved responsiveness to needs and concerns of older Indians.

Thank you for all that you have done in behalf of older Indians and for your attention to this letter and attachments. I await your response.

Respectfully,

Steve C Wilson
Steve Wilson, Chairman
Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging

Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging

September 19, 1985
Page 2

cc: MAJORITY MEMBERS

William S. Cohen, Maine
Larry Pressler, S.D.
Charles E. Grassley, Iowa
Pete Wilson, Calif.
John W. Warner, Va.
Daniel J. Evans, Wash.
Jeremiah A. Denton, Ala.
Don Nickles, Okla.
Paula Hawkins, Fla.

MINORITY MEMBERS

John H. Glenn, Jr., Chairman, Ohio
John Melcher, Mont.
David Pryor, Ark.
Bill Bradley, N.J.
Quentin N. Burdick, N.D.
Christopher J. Dodd, Conn.
J. Bennett Johnston, La.
Jeff Bingaman, N.M.

October 24, 1985

Mr. Curtis Cook, Executive Director
National Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 2088
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Curtis:

I write to you as a member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs for the American Association of Retired Persons with a proposed strategy plan. I believe that very few people or organizations in the aging network have read "Let Us Continue in Unity", i.e., Proceedings of the Fifth National Indian Conference on Aging which was held in March 1984.

Your personal experience with AoA staff who professed total unawareness of the above described conference report lends credence to my proposal that this conference report be sent to those organizations who are concerned about the unserved and the underserved older Indians. I discussed the gist of the proposal with Marie Phillips, Minority Initiatives Coordinator with AARP, and advised her we needed AARP's help in successfully effecting this action plan. AARP help will be the reprinting and dissemination of 2,000 (more if needed) copies of "Let us Continue in Unity" with explanatory cover letter to the appropriate individuals, agencies, organizations, who upon reading "Let Us Continue in Unity", will be able to identify with the reflective content of the next two paragraphs.

Over 400 older Indians attended that conference. They believed their input would contribute to the development of a long awaited and much needed National Indian Policy on Aging. Presently, we cannot assure them that their contribution was meaningful for once again an arm of the Federal Government has coldly and silently sent a message to older Indians and the total Indian community. The message is continued indifference and insensitivity, or in colloquial parlance "I really do not care about your concerns."

The Proceedings of the Fifth National Indian Conference on Aging was summarized appropriately enough to serve as National Indian Policy on Aging or at least as the cortex for development of National

Mr. Cook
Page 2
October 24, 1985

Policy. Certainly, the Indian position was clearly illuminated, but the Federal Government, with all of its affected departments, has failed to clearly identify and mandate those departments that will be responsible for directing and providing needed services to older Indians. Who should be held accountable to the Indian elders? Perhaps the people who read "Let Us Continue in Unity" will tell us.

I offer my assistance in any way I may be needed to carry out further action on this proposal. I guarantee the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging will assist you, and I believe there are other Indian Aging Councils ready to participate in action oriented initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal, and I await your reply.

Respectfully,

Rudy Cleghorn

Rudy Cleghorn

NATIONAL INDIAN POLICY ON AGING - A NEED

We, in Indian aging programs, have achieved some of the goals we dreamed of in the 70's, but we have grown as a response to enexorable necessities, not because we skillfully persuaded the public and the service delivery system to accept what we know to be an absolute truth about needs of older Indians. We need to work on our public image; we need a new rationale that is solidly rooted in sound harmony and leadership. We need a new outreach to the nation's thought leaders.

We must, as an Indian community with capable program managers, define our own goals to address the real needs and to COMMUNICATE COGENTLY to the proper policy-making authorities. We must make our voice heard; we must insist on equitable representation and consideration, and above all, we must bring a new and larger vision of service delivery of which high standards can only be one part. Specifically, we should insist on the prompt formation on a new unfragmented network and a new approach on which both are fairly represented to begin to repair the damage wrought by lack of concerted unity and lack of a policy which marshalls forces together to ensure just delivery of services to older Indians.

Such action would result in a specific vision of a re-integration of the enterprise in ways that will harmonize our goals and provide a sense of united national direction. Then, all various organizations who have available resource components and are willing to contribute to the effective service delivery program for older Indians could potentially begin the long process of moving toward that vision. There must be continuing affirmation in the application of the Older Americans Act as it is applicable to the Indian aging service delivery record. There can be no question about that. Clearly, a system that was incompletely fashioned to meet one set of requirements for a tiny fraction of the entire aging population, has not succeeded in achieving the goal that should be achieved;then needs to develop a set of requirements to properly deliver services to this tiny fraction of the entire aging population.

Clearly, we need a new definition of policy and service delivery - not warmed-over versions of old cliches such as: "Providing services to older individuals in the greatest economic of social need"; "preference will be given to providing services to older individuals in the greatest economic needs, with particular attention to low-income, minority individuals." We need a definition of a policy that provides both the specific and the general, and acknowledges that the road between them is a two-way road. We can move both from the general to the specific and from the specific to the general.

We need a definition of a policy that will have meaning for everyone. Above all, we need a definition of a policy that will tend to integrate all possible resources into a recognizable whole and eliminate such hindering and harmful factors as misinformation, lack of information and fragmentation.

Therefore, the undersigned representatives of Title VI Grantees hereby call upon the Congress of the United States, through the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and the U.S. House Special Committee on Aging, to take appropriate action steps that will result in a policy that is based on input from American Indian elders, National Indian Council on Aging, State Indian Council on Aging, and Title VI Grantees. We also call on the President of the United States.

THE INDIAN DESK MYTH

I have commented on the Indian desk issue previously and will affix copies of my comments to this face sheet. This issue rightfully should be referred to the Honorable Jeff Bingamin from New Mexico, and the reason is that Senator Bingamin believed that the colloquy and correspondence between the Special Committee on Aging and the Commissioner of the Administration on Aging was conducted in good faith. The Commissioner's letter of December 7, 1984 clearly shows lack of good faith. In my opinion, this is a prime example of crass unconcern. Attachment Yellow consists of (1) copy of May 24,1984 CONGRESSIONAL--SENATE S6549 and S 6550; (2) copy of December 7, 1984 from Commissioner Tolliver to Senator Bingamin; (3) copy of comments by Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging on each paragraph previously identified letter; (4) copy of my comments to the Federal Council on Aging on February 25, 1986.

as those being provided to upper income elderly in so-called 'Life Care Communities'.

"(2) The Commissioner is authorized to make small seed grants for the development and evaluation of demonstrations of market rate, congregate living arrangements, modified life care (no founders fee) or Retirement Service Centers (as defined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 221(d)(4) of the National Housing Act) for moderate income elderly individuals in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas of the country.

"(3) The Commissioner is authorized to enter into a contract to survey and evaluate the marketability and effectiveness of market rate congregate living developments for moderate income older persons and to make recommendations to the Administration on Aging, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Congress about the degree to which these developments can help meet the long-term housing and service needs of moderate income older Americans.

"(4) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.".

Mr. BINGAMAN. I would like to thank the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Aging. They have worked long and hard to produce this fine piece of legislation, the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. As an original cosponsor, I know of no other piece of legislation that does so much for so many.

As the distinguished Senator from Iowa knows, I am deeply concerned about our older Americans, particularly the American Indian elderly, the first inhabitants of this country. Congress recognized their special needs when it added title VI to the Older American Act. Eighty-three Indian grantees currently receive funding and in my meetings and conversations with Indian leaders and elders there is a demonstrated need for an individual to be held accountable and to administer the title VI programs.

I have an amendment I would like to offer that would establish a Deputy Commissioner on Indian Programs.

This person would be responsible for the formulation and coordination of programs addressing the needs of these underserved and needy Americans.

As Senator GRASSLEY may know, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs the average percentage of Indians over 65 is 6 percent of the total BIA Service Population, that is, those Indians living on or near Indian reservations. The total BIA Service Population on reservations for 1981 was estimated to be 734,895 and those over 65 years of age within that total were estimated to be 44,715.

Mr. GRASSLEY. As the distinguished Senator from New Mexico knows, I share his concern for the needs of Native Americans. I have been assured by Commissioner Tolliver that the establishment of an Indian desk can be accomplished by administrative action. On May 8, 1984, I received a letter from Dr. Lennie-Marie P. Tolliver, Commissioner on Aging, which I am including for the record, which states in part:

> I am responding to your concern about the need for title VI focal point in the Administration on Aging to address the policy needs of older Indians. In recognition of that need and in response to your concerns, I intend to establish a Special Assistant in the Office of the Commissioner shortly. The Special Assistant's responsibilities will include, as a major role, the development and coordination of older Indian policy with the Administration of the Aging, as well as advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of Older American Indians within the Department.

I ask the Senator from New Mexico. Is this satisfactory and what you would like to see established?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Yes, I believe so and I will not offer my amendment. The needs of older Native Americans are many and diverse. The appointment of a person to occupy a position within the Office of the Commissioner is a significant step and will assist in addressing these needs. I intend to closely monitor the development of this position to insure that this person will be an effective advocate and liaison for the needs of the Indian elderly. I applaud the responsive action of the Commissioner on Aging and I thank the Indian community in New Mexico and Arizona for bringing this matter to my attention. I would like to thank the chairman for his assistance in this matter and express my appreciation to the Commissioner for her commitment. I would also like to thank Pete Conroy, staff director of the Subcommittee on Aging, who was of special assistance to me and my staff.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I, too, applaud the responsive action of the Commissioner on Aging and I thank the Senator from New Mexico for his leadership in bringing this issue to our attention. I believe your determined efforts in this matter will improve the effectiveness of this bill. As stated in the committee report accompanying this legislation, the committee also intends to monitor the development of the Office of Special Assistant and encourages joint hearings by the Select Committee on Indian Affairs, the Special Committee on Aging, and the Subcommittee on Aging on this issue. I am hopeful such hearings will be held in the near future.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank the Senator from Iowa.

Mr. MELCHER. Madam President, I wish to also thank the chairman, ranking minority member, and the staffs of the Subcommittee on Aging not only for their fine work in developing the 1984 reauthorization legislation for the Older Americans Act, but for their attention to title VI which provides direct funding to Indian tribes. As the ranking minority member of the Indian Affairs Committee and as a member of the Special Committee on Aging, I am particularly concerned with the needs of the American Indian elderly.

I also commend my good friend from New Mexico for his pursuing the establishment of a focal point for title VI and services to American Indians within the Administration on Aging. I am pleased with Commissioner Tolliver's response that she will establish a Special Assistant position in her Office which will devote major attention to the development, coordination, and advocacy of Indian programs. I will join the Senator from New Mexico not only in monitoring the development of this position but in watching closely to see that it is working effectively to serve the needs of Indian older Americans.

I have been particularly concerned with the application process for title VI, the direct funding grants to Indian tribes for social and nutrition services. Two tribes in my State have been told by the Administration on Aging that they could not receive grants simply because, due to an administrative mixup in the State, they missed a one-time application deadline in 1980, 4 years ago. To me, this is not only inequitable but clearly contrary to the intent of the law. Madam President, I would like to ask the Senator from Iowa what will be done to assure that title VI grant funding is accessible to all eligible tribes just as title III is open to all of the eligible States?

Mr. GRASSLEY. In responding to my friend from Montana, I shall have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Commissioner on Aging to federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaskan Native groups interested in grants under title VI of the Older Americans Act, dated April 24, 1984.

I think this letter, along with the May 8, 1984 letter from the Commissioner that has been made a part of this colloquy point up the increasing awareness of the Administration on Aging for the need for full and accessible funding of all eligible tribes under title VI, including the two Montana tribes referred to by my friend from Montana.

I again assure the Senator from Montana that I, as chairman of the authorizing committee for the Older Americans Act, will be in consultation with the chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, Senator HEINZ, as well as the members of the Indian Affairs Committee so that this matter will maintain the high profile you and the Senator from New Mexico have given it.

Mr. MELCHER. I thank the Senator from Iowa and commend the Commissioner for her increasing attention to the problems of the American Indian elderly.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent to have the letter I referred to printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BILL MENZER

FAITH RUSSELL

Merry Halcumandaris

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING,
Washington, D.C., May 8, 1984.
Hon. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aging, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am responding to your concern about the need for a Title VI focal point in the Administration on Aging (AOA) to address the policy needs of older Indians. In recognition of the need and in response to your concerns, I intend to establish a Special Assistant position in the Office of the Commissioner, shortly. The Special Assistant's responsibilities will include, as a major role, the development and coordination of older Indian policy within AOA, as well as advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of older Indians within the Department.

This Special Assistant will represent the Commissioner in the coordination of policy matters concerning the Title VI programs, including AOA representation in the Inter-Departmental Council on Indian Affairs. The specific duties of this position will include advising, consulting and cooperating with other Federal agencies and departments who propose or administer programs for older Indians, with an emphasis on those programs for older Indians administered by the Department of the Interior. In addition, the Special Assistant will be available to meet with Tribes and Tribal organizations, as well as you and the Committee staff, to discuss any matters that concern the health and welfare of older Indians.

We believe that the establishment of this position in my office will provide programs for older Indians with more visibility than they currently enjoy, and will provide Indian organizations with more direct access to AOA's policy making process.

I hope that this information will assist you, and I look forward to continuing to work with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,
LENNIE-MARIE P. TOLLIVER, Ph.D.,
Commissioner on Aging.

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING,
Washington D.C., April 24, 1984.
To: Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Groups Interested in Grants Under Title VI of the Older Americans Act.

Thank you for your inquiry concerning Title VI of the Older Americans Act. The Administration on Aging (AOA) will accept competing applications from federally recognized Indian Tribes for a three-year project period for funding under Title VI of the Older Americans Act, Grants to Indian Tribes for Supportive and Nutritional Services for older Indians.

With the prospect of additional funding for Fiscal Year 1985, applications are being invited from new Tribes as well as from current grantees. Applications from current grantees and from new applicants are both due at the Office of Human Development Services, Department of Health and Human Services, by June 29, 1984. The enclosed Program announcement, which was printed in the Federal Register on April 10, 1984, will explain the details. An application kit and other information are enclosed. An acknowledgment card is enclosed in the kit. You should complete both sides, with your own address on the front. It will be returned to you when the application is received.

Information is also enclosed about a meeting to be held in Denver on May 15 to brief new applicants. We hope you will be able to attend.

For further information, please contact Mr. Michio Suzuki, Associate Commissioner for State and Tribal Programs, Administration on Aging, Room 4282, HHS-North Building, 330 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20201, telephone (202) 245-0011.

We appreciate your interest in services for older Indians.

Sincerely,
LENNIE-MARIE P. TOLLIVER, PH. D.,
Commissioner on Aging.

Mr. DECONCINI. Madam President, I commend the chairman of the Subcommittee on Aging for moving the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act so expeditiously. As my good friends from New Mexico and Montana have aptly expressed, this act is vital to improving the quality of life for elderly people of this country. Furthermore, it is especially important for the Indian elderly because the nature of the problems they face requires the attention of the Administration on Aging which has the mandated responsibility to put in place a Federal policy that guides the coordination of services needed by the Native American elderly. I appreciate the good work of my colleagues on getting a commitment from the Administration to establish a position of Special Assistant for the purpose of addressing the policy needs of the Indian elderly. I strongly believe that having oversight hearings on issues related to Indian aging needs in the very near future will assure the timely development and implementation of the long-awaited policy. I join my colleagues in calling for such hearings.

Mr. JOHNSTON. Madam President, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of S. 2063, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act for 3 additional years. Furthermore, I think it is appropriate that the Senate is considering this legislation during Older Americans Month.

Today, one out of nine Americans is a senior citizen. This means that there are as many Americans aged 65 and older as there are teenagers. Furthermore, seniors represent the fastest growing segment of our population. It is estimated that by the end of the century our senior population will include one out of every six Americans. The Older Americans Act represents the only Federal social services program solely directed toward improving the lives of our senior citizens and the aging of America's population reaffirms the need to reauthorize this act.

The Older Americans Act first became law in 1965. Since that time the programs funded through the act have grown from a few small social service grants and research projects to a network of over 1,500 individuals and community service projects. In addition to providing basic social and nutritional needs, the act also supports other important services at the local level, including employment, counseling, home health care, transportation, adult day care, information and referral, and legal services. Services are provided to all seniors regardless of income, but the law places a special emphasis on those in greatest social and economic need. The size of the budget for administering the Older Americans Act has increased from $7.5 million in fiscal year 1966 to over $1 billion in fiscal year 1984.

Madam President, I am especially proud of how the Older Americans Act has been implemented in my home State of Louisiana. Prior to enactment of the Older Americans Act, Louisiana had in place the basic framework for implementing the programs authorized by the act. It had already established a Commission on Aging and it had established the mechanism necessary to charter the parish councils on aging.

As the Older Americans Act developed through the year, so did the services provided by the councils on aging. For example, after enactment of the 1973 amendments to the act, Louisiana was divided into planning and service areas and area agencies on aging were designated. The area agencies began to establish a network of social and nutritional services that would eventually assist hundreds of thousands of Louisiana's senior population.

One of the Older Americans Act programs that has been especially beneficial to the elderly of Louisiana is the nutrition services program authorized under title III of the act. In the early years of the act, nutrition services were only available to seniors living in major cities. However, by 1980, nutrition services were available in every ~~parish of the State and in 1983~~, over 4 million congregate and home-delivered meals were made available to more than 100,000 seniors in Louisiana.

Title V of the Older Americans Act establishes the senior community service employment program. This program helps low-income elderly find part-time public service employment. Last year, the program helped over 1,000 of Louisiana's elderly find employment with various community agencies, including those agencies that directly service the elderly.

The Older Americans Act has also served as the impetus for the establishment of the nursing home ombudsman program. Established in 1982 by the Louisiana Legislature, this program has assisted more than 4,000 residents of Louisiana's nursing homes. Under this program, the ombudsman serves as an advocate for the nursing home resident and tries to make the person's stay in the nursing home more enjoyable.

Title IV of the act provides funds for training, research, and demonstration projects in the field of aging. These funds have been used to establish curricula in gerontology at a number of Louisiana's State colleges and universities. Presently, Grambling University is the recipient of title IV funds.

In summary, it is evident that the programs authorized by the Older Americans Act have helped hundreds of thousands of Louisiana's senior population. I urge my colleagues in the Senate to join with me and support

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Office of
Human Development Services

Administration on Aging
Office of Assistant Secretary
Washington DC 20201

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Bingamon:

I am responding to your concern and inquiry about the need for a Title VI focal point in the Administration on Aging (AoA) to address the needs of older Indians. During the 1984 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, Senator Grassley, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aging, inquired about the need for a focal point within the Office of the Commissioner. I responded that I intended to establish a focal point in my office.

During the past months as I have reevaluated my staffing options and the need for policy development, advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of older Indians, I have determined that a different staffing pattern will allow the Administration on Aging (AoA) to be more effective in its supportive role of both the Title VI grantees and the broader Indian community. Staffing needs have been addressed as follows:

- AoA has consolidated functions involving Title III and Title VI of the Older Americans Act into the Office of State and Tribal Programs headed by an Associate Commissioner, Michio Suzuki.
- AoA has established a Special Assistant position in the Office of the Commissioner which is filled by Nell P. Ryan. The Special Assistant's responsibilities include, as a major role, the development and coordination of older Indian policy within AoA, as well as advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of older Indians within the Department. The Special Assistant represents the Commissioner in the coordination of policy matters concerning the Title VI programs, including AoA representation in the Intra-Departmental Council on Indian Affairs.

We believe that the consolidation of functions related to Indians will provide those programs with more visibility than they currently enjoy, and will provide Indian organizations with more direct access to AoA's policy making process. We further believe that our increased emphasis on, and sensitivity to Indian issues in recent months has produced a number of positive outcomes. On behalf of the Indian community, AoA has:

- awarded a contract to ACKCO, Inc., an Indian-owned firm, to provide technical assistance to all areas related to program management in the Title VI programs;
- prepared grant award documents to refund all current Title VI grantees for FY 1985--grants cover a three year project period;
- increased the number of Tribes that will be receiving Title VI support, by inviting all eligible Tribes to compete in the FY 1985 funding process;
- conducted a technical assistance workshop for new Title VI applicants--30 Tribes attended;
- developed, in conjunction with the Administration for Native Americans, an Indian Elders Initiative which focuses on intergenerational activities in the areas of nutrition, injury control and physical fitness; and
- scheduled an Information Memorandum on Indian Nursing Homes for December, 1984.

Of course, there is still much to be done. I look forward to the continued development and refinement of the programs funded under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. I wholeheartedly believe that the elderly are a great resource and that by encouraging their contributions of talent, knowledge and wisdom we can ensure a better future of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Lennie-Marie P. Tolliver

Lennie-Marie P. Tolliver, Ph.D.
Commissioner on Aging

Dr. Lennie Marie Toliver's letter to the Honorable Jeff Bingamin has been reviewed, paragraph by paragraph, by the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging. Each paragraph is entered verbatim in the left column while the comments of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging appear in the right column.

PARAGRAPH	COMMENTS
I am responding to your concern and inquiry about the need for a Title VI focal point in the Administration on Aging (AoA) to address the needs of older Indians. During the 1984 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, Senator Grassley, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Aging, inquired about the need for a focal point within the Office of the Commissioner. I responded that I intended to establish a focal point in my office.	This paragraph very carefully avoids use of wording that would specfically identify the "focal point" as an American Indian from a Federally recognized tribe. Therefore, it is obvious that AoA is committed to ignoring the concern and rationale of The Indian Community. "A focal point" is very vague nomenclature and could easily include Bugs Bunny or Beetle Bailey as potential choices.
During the past months as I have reevaluated my staffing options and the need for policy development, advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of older Indians, I have determined that a different staffing pattern will allow the Administration on Aging (AoA) to be more effective in its supportive role of both the Title VI grantees and the broader Indian Community. Staffing needs have been addressed as follows:	What were the staffing options? How many options were available to Dr. Tolliver? How much time is required to develop a Policy? One assumes that the policy referred to in this paragraph is the National Indian Policy on Aging draft which was prepared by the National Indian Council on Aging and which included input from over 700 Older Indians who attended the 5th National Indian Conference on Aging in July, 1984. As of September 1985 the NICOA policy draft remains in a state of dormancy. Is this an example of how a different staffing pattern is more effective? It is little wonder who Older Indians do not respond to AoA approaches when insensitivity boldly bumbles ever onward. This "different staffing pattern" is akin to a leopard without spots.

PARAGRAPH	COMMENTS
AoA has consolidated functions involving Title III and Title IV of the Older Americans Act into the Office of State and Tribal Programs headed by an Associate Commissioner, Michio Suzuki.	This is new and different? What is Mr. Suzuki doing that he had not done in FY-84 or FY-83? Most certainly, he does not respond to letters from the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging - and Acting Commissioner Fisk clearly identified this responsibility to be in the provice of Mr. Suzuki.
- AoA has established a Special Assistant position in the office of the Commissioner which is filled by Nell P. Ryan. The Special Assistant's responsibilities include, as a major role, th development and coordination of older Indian policy within AoA, as well as advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of older Indians within the Department. The Special Assistant represents the Commissioner in the coordination of policy matters concerning the Title VI programs, including AoA representation in the Intra-Departmental Council on Indian Affairs.	When will Title VI Grantees be privileged to read the "older Indian policy within AoA" that was developed and coordinated by the Special Assistant? Who authored the policy for the Special Assistant to coordinate? What are specific examples of advocacy and coordination activities on behalf of older Indians which were developed by the special assistant? What is the role of the Intra-Departmental Council on Indian Affairs regarding Title VI Programs? Does this organization have a written position on concerns of older Indians? If so, what is it? How many agencies has the Special Assistant coordinated policy matters with for the Commissioner?
We believe that the consolidation of functions related to Indians will provide those programs with more visibility that they currently enjoy, and will provide Indian organizations with more direct access to AoA's policy making process. We further believe that our increased emphasis on, and sensitivity to Indian issues in recent months has produced a number of positive outcomes. On behalf of the Indian community, AoA has:	Who is we? This letter began as "I..." Does we refer to the Commissioner and the Secretary? The President? The AoA staff? Also, the 13th and 14th words of this paragraph "those Programs" are vague by failing to identify whose programs require visibility and why. What is AoA's policy making process? Does this mean that AoA has it's own Indian aging policy and will not accept a National Indian Aging Policy as defined by older Indians? If AoA was sensitive to Indian issues, a National Indian Aging policy would have been adopted and disseminated to the service provider network long before now, also, the Special Assistant would be an American Indian from a Federally recognized tribe. The positive outcomes listed below are, at best, relative.

PARAGRAPH	COMMENT
- awarded a contract to ACKCO, Inc. an Indian owned firm, to provide techincal assistance to all areas related to program management in the Title VI program.	This is definitely no great innovation that occurred "in recent months" AoA awarded contracts to ACKCO, Inc. for the past three years. Technical assistance should be provided by AoA Regional Directors and staff.
- prepared grant award documents to refund all current Title VI grantees for FY 1985--grants cover a three year project period;	This is not a revolutionary outcome. AoA has prepared grant award documents since 1980, but if this is a positive outcome based on an increased sensitivity, then the Indian community can rightly assert that from 1980 until "recent months" the Administration on Aging was insensitive to Indian issues. This paragraph is nothing more than an example of grasping at straws.
- increased the number of Tribes that will be receiving Title VI support, by inviting all eligible Tribes to compete in the FY 1985 funding process;	Another example of grasping for a straw, one is led to believe that AoA went out in the field looking for more Title VI applicants. The likelihood of this happening is nil; what is likely is that various tribes and tribal organizations appealed to their Congressional delegations for appropriate action that would enable more tribes/tribal organizations to qualify for Title VI funding.
- conducted a technical assistance workshop for new Title VI applicants--30 Tribes attended;	What else could AoA do with new Title VI Grantees applicants? This is akin to inviting people to eat at your table, then the next act is to serve them food.
- developed, in conjunction with the Administration for Native Americans, an Indian Elders Initiative which focuses on intergenerational activities in the areas of nutrition, injury control and physical fitness; and	A discussion with an appropriate ANA staff person reflects that ANA and AoA met about two years ago to ascertain if coordinative efforts could be developed toward identifying needs of older Indians that could be addressed jointly. ANA did liaison work between AoA and Indian Health Service in the distribution of a handbook to Indian tribes. The initiative referred to in the left column has been inactive for serveral months due to the illness of the ANA staff member who coordinated the initiative. During the summer of 1985 AoA provided ANA with a copy of the policy draft of National Indian Policy on Aging prepared by the National Indian Council on Aging in July, 1984.

PARAGRAPH	COMMENTS
- Scheduled an Information Memorandum on Indian Nursing Homes for December, 1984.	No indication of what was involved in scheduling of an Information memorandum.
Of course, there is still much to be done. I look forward to the continued development and refinement of the programs funded under the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended. I wholeheartedly believe that the elderly are a great resource and that by encouraging their contributions of talent, knowledge and wisdom we can ensure a better future of all Americans.	This is a weak closing paragraph and contains no relevance to the basic reason for writing the letter. It is akin to getting a handshake from a dead mackerel.

THE INDIAN DESK MYTH

What else can you call it from the viewpoint of the American Indian Community? Administration after administration has refused to grant the request of the Indian community - and the Congress - for the establishment of the position of a Special Assistant in the office of the Commissioner on Aging. The most recent dodging act occurred in 1984, and is summarized in the following two paragraphs which are taken verbatim from the August 1984 publication ELDER VOICES- published by the National Indian Council on Aging and disseminated throughout the United States to all the Federally recognized Indian Tribes and read widely by the Indian Aging population. The front page announcement read as follows: "INDIAN DESK" TO BE ESTABLISHED BY AoA

Through the efforts of Senator Jeff Bingamin of New Mexico and Senator Charles Grassley of Iowa, language is being included in the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act which mandates the establishment of an Indian Desk within the Administration On Aging. Senator Grassley revealed that the Commissioner had given assurances that she would soon appoint a Special Assistant within the Office of the Commissioner and stated that the responsibilities of the Special Assistant would include as a major role, "the development and coordination of Older Indian policy within AoA.

The Commissioner also stated in her letter: "We believe that the establishment of this position in my office will provide programs for older Indians with more visibility than they currently enjoy, and will provide Indian organizations with more direct access to AoA's policy making process."

The Commissioner's letter was dated May 8, 1984, and nothing happened until December 7, 1984 when a letter of abrogation was sent to Senator Bingaman. A copy of this letter is provided for your information as I comment on the contents of this letter. One elderly Indian who read the letter commented: "This was written on Pearl Harbor Day, huh?" None of us here could embellish upon this observation by a sage old Indian.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of
Human Development Services

Office of Assistant Secretary
Washington DC 20201

Administration on Aging

Mr. Stacey Buffalohead
Executive Director
Otoe-Missouria Tribe
P.O. Box 68
Red Rock, OK 74651 Re: 90AI0106

DEC 1985
RECEIVED

Dear Title VI Grantee:

I am pleased to inform you that staff of your AoA Regional Office will shortly begin to assist me in providing additional support to your Title VI program for Indian elders. In order to improve the quality of our Title VI programming, I have directed the Regional Program Director to assign staff to provide whatever assistance they can to answer your inquiries, and transmit information relating to the field of Aging. To speed this process along, I plan to have Regional staff serve as the program specialist for your existing Title VI award.

Greater involvement of the Regional Office in the Title VI program will enable the Central Office to conduct our national responsibilities relative to this program more efficiently and effectively. The additional support being provided by Regional Office staff will in no way change the way in which you operate your program on a day-to-day basis. National direction and planning for the Title VI program here in Washington will in no way be affected by this added Regional staff involvement.

You can expect a "get acquainted" call from your new program specialist in the near future. In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (202) 245-0011.

Sincerely,

Michio Suzuki
Associate Commissioner
Office of State and Tribal Programs.

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Mr. Stacey Buffalohead
Executive Director
Otoe-Missouria Tribe
P.O. Box 68
Red Rock, OK 74651 Re: 90AI0106

NAME OF AoA REGIONAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST FOR TITLE VI:

Jim Sherry

ADDRESS:

1200 Main Tower Bldg.
Room 2060
Dallas, Texas 75201

PHONE: (214) 767-2971

TITLE IV GRANTEE
ATTACHMENT

THE AoA REGIONAL PROGRAM SPECIALIST FOR YOUR TITLE VI GRANT WILL ALSO SERVE AS THE PROGRAM SPECIALIST FOR YOUR TITLE IV GRANT.

Otoe-Missouria Tribe

P. O. Box 68, Red Rock, Oklahoma 74651 - Phone (405) 723-4334

Hearing: PROBLEMS FACING OUR NATIVE AMERICAN ELDERLY
JUNE 28, 1986 Oklahoma City, OK
Senator Nickles presiding

Rudy Cleghorn's Analysis of written Testimony of Commissioner on Aging

Senator Nickles, permit me to offer rebut testimony to some of Commissioner Fisk's testimony. I will first address her testimony on page 11, as a grasping of straws technique, much akin to what I said to you about appellate advocacy i.e., when you have neither the facts nor the figures you hammer the table.

The first fallacy in her testimony is that the Oklahoma Special Unit on Aging is the Oklahoma Minority Task Force on Aging.

Secondly, fourteen Indians have attended meetings in the past, but this does not indicate that they consider themselves members. Actually, three (3) Indians attended (quarterly) meetings regularly during the past year, particularly preceding the planning of the Statewide Outreach Workers Conference.

Thirdly, the Oklahoma Special Unit on Aging did not involve Title VI grantees in the Statewide Outreach Workers Conference. The three (3) Indians who assisted in the planning of the conference were responsible for Title VI attendance at the conference. Hence, the shoe is on the other foot, but yes, two (2) Title VI Directors were involved in planning the conference, and this leads to the next paragraph.

Fourth, one of the Indians on the Outreach Conference Planning Committee suggested the theme for the conference "Is Anybody Out There?" The theme was not adhered to by workshop leaders and those who delivered short oratory preceding the keynote address by the Chairman of the American Association of Retired Persons' Board of Directors. The latter person adhered to the conference theme because one of the Indians on the planning conference was solely responsible for the selection of the keynote speaker and briefed the American Association of Retired Persons staff on the conference theme. The other Title VI Director had an Indian shawl made for the President of A.A.R.P. and this was presented to the keynote speaker. That same Title VI Director was a workshop leader who followed the conference theme but experienced upper echelon interference in this way: a person who was to serve as a panelist and had been briefed on the conference theme was replaced by another person who was not briefed as to the conference theme and therefore, really made no contribution. Also, another member of the Planning Committee briefed the A.O.A. Regional Director as to the theme of the conference, but this person's remarks did not reflect the tint and hue of the conference theme; neither did the comments of S.U.O.A. upper management personnel.

Fifth, this refutation refers back to the third paragraph. Fourteen different Indians have signed their names on attendance sheets at various quarterly meetings of the Minority Task Force on Aging. More than 50% of the names were registered when a panel of five (5) Indians were presenters at a quarterly meeting and other Indians attended to lend their support to the presenters, three (3) of whom were members of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging.

Sixth, this correction is a continuation of paragraph four (4). The shoe fits the other foot as herein described: In 1984, Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging began making presentations of a workshop called "More Than Bows and Arrows" at conferences. The purpose of these presentations was to communicate to the aging network why and what barriers prohibited older Indians from accessing services available under the Older Americans Act. One (1) presentation was made at the joint N4A/NASUA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Hence, in essence Title VI went to Title III with an informative and enlightening modality.

Seventh, a straw poll of Title VI managers in Oklahoma reflects that whereas, Grantees receive information items in the mail, none could recall receiving invitations to no cost training events. Senator; this concludes my refutation of the Commissioners testimony on page eleven, and I next turn to the long paragraph on page nine (9), of the Commissioner's testimony. The fourth sentence is a continuation of the Administration's denial that the Older Americans Act is a compact which the Administration chooses to consider an Act of Nullity. The next sentence is farcical, in that the language tends to impress as a lofty aspiration, but in reality the Administration on Aging shrank from approving a draft of a National Indian Policy on Aging which would marshal "many programs.... together into a well-functioning system of services for Older Native Americans." A.O.A. has had in it's possession since July, 1984, a proposed National Indian Policy on Aging - same was drafted by The National Indian Council on Aging staff at the request of A.O.A. So now, the Commissioner testifies that "to accomplish this goal is the challenge which faces all of us." What is so challenging about sanctioning a policy draft which was prepared by Indians who know the concerns of Older Indians? The above quoted sentence is nothing but a pointing of the finger at other "authorities" to do what A.O.A. could have/should have implemented two (2) years ago. This is a clear reflection of how A.O.A. sidesteps accountability.

The Commissioner's testimony on pages seven (7) and eight (8), relates to Title VI data for FY-84. A.O.A. data continues to be confusing and obviously inflated; for example: "of the eligible population of 18,927, 94 percent (17,730, persons) participated in nutrition services..." The confusion arises when one looks at other data prepared for FY-84, reads thusly: Older Indians Receiving Services...Title VI Grants to Indian Tribes Program in FY-84

Congregate Meals	12,943
Home Delivered Meals	5,570

This total then is 18,513, which is 783 more older Indians than the figure of 17,730, as given in the Commissioner's testimony. The disturbing aspect of this testimony is that the participation rate is presented as 94 percent which of course impresses as evidence that the program is a phenomenal success, exceeding all expectations. But, is this accurate? What about the 12,000, plus, older Cherokees in Oklahoma? Are they a part of the statistical chairs game? Or is this vintage verbiage--authoritative, convoluted, confusing, and unintelligible to most of us? The percentage sounds fantastic, but how do we account for the decrease in total number of Older Indians receiving nutrition services in 1982, when the figure was 19,836? And what was the percentage of participation in 1982? Now, let us turn to page 4, of the Commissioner's testimony and note that Title III, provided nutrition services to 30,000, Indian elders under the congregate meals program and 7,700, Indian elders received home delivered meals. How many of those older Indians were served by Tribes that are designated as Area Agencies on Aging and therefore, are included in Title III, stats?

Finally, I refer to page 3, of the Commissioner's testimony ..."responding to the needs of older Native Americans, is a task which must be shared by both the public and private sectors: by Federal, State, local, and Tribal Governments; by private industry, and by older persons themselves and their families." ... This impresses as a trick to say something that will not only not get the sayer in trouble now, but will look good on the base of a statue, should posterity decide to pick up the quotation. Task in most parts of the country means a job, but in this testimony task reads like Washington language, which must have a resounding tone and wherever possible converts nouns into verbs. Senator, in the material our advocates presented to the Special Committee on Aging Senator, insofar as the "task" is applicable to Tribal Governments I will remind the Commissioner that in testimony and information presented to the Federal Council on Aging in February, 1986, by some of our Indian aging advocates, there is data which shows these facts and figures: 28 Title VI Grantees contributed data which reflected that a total Title VI funding amount of $1,882,451.00, for 1985, whereas, the contribution of the 28 Tribal Governments totaled $1,603,162.00. Obviously, Tribes are supplementing an inadequate Title VI funding level. Senator, it is also vague as to the role the Commissioner thinks that older Indians themselves should play in this "task." I assume she is not referring to a financial role, since we have been trying to convince A.O.A. for years that many of Title VI participants live under sub par economic conditions. Furthermore, that there are those older Indians who are not Title VI participants. Data has been made available to A.O.A., which is reflective of our concerns, but this seems not to be the kind of data A.O.A. prefers. In essence, the key message from A.O.A. is that the Administration will make only a partial committment to the Older Americans Act - and will not be responsive to needs of older Native Americans. First, the Administration could show good faith by implementing action that will establish a National Indian Policy on Aging. According to Indian input from the grass roots sector rather than using such Washington buzz words as "task" to infer that state, local, Tribal Governments, and agencies from the public and private sector should instantaneously volunteer to assist. Assist what, where, how, and when? Secondly, the Administration could show further good faith by directing the Secretary to establish within A.O.A. a Special Assistant to the Commissioner, who will be a member of a Federally recognized Tribe and who will be chosen by the National Association of Title VI Grantees and the National Indian Council on Aging. This would accomplish the task alluded to by the Commissioners testimony.

I thank you and the Special Committee on Aging.

Rudy Cleghorn

Otoe-Missouria Tribe

P. O. Box 68, Red Rock, Oklahoma 74651 · Phone (405) 723-4334

To: The Honorable Don Nickles, United States Senator

From: Otoe-Missouria Tribal Elders

Date: June 18, 1986

Subject: United States Senate Special Committee on Aging Field Hearing

We respectfully request that our written concerns be entered into your record as input from older Indians who receive services provided by the Otoe-Missouria Tribe's Title VI program. During the last three years we have experienced loss of such supportive services as: woodcutting for those who use wood for home heating, mowing of yards/lawns for those who no longer are able to cut their own grass and cannot afford to pay for having this service done; the garden project which provided fresh vegetables for our daily meal; home service project which provided friendly visiting, chore service, light housecleaning, checking mail for overlooked important letters; discontinuance of a trial fresh fruit program by which we were given fresh fruits twice weekly so that our nutrition intake would be beneficial to our health, home help/minor repairs was very helpful because some of us could not afford to have minor things done in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, doors/screens areas.

All of this is due to budget cuts that have occurred since 1983, the grant award is less each year and amounts to $23,581 in budget cuts from then until now and for October 1986 we will be cut an additional $4,072.00, bringing the total reductions to $27,653.00. Senator Nickles, we appeal to you and the Senate Special Committee and the entire Congress to take action to stop this downward spiral that robs our elders of needed services.

We also want you to know that through our spokesman, Mr. E.O. Hudson that we are grateful to our State Indian Council on Aging for all their efforts in behalf of not only us but older Indians in Oklahoma and the United States. The members of the Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging are appointed by tribal leaders to serve as our voice; they are commissioned to do so and we have deep and heartfelt trust in their ability and capability.

OTOE-MISSOURIA

SENIOR CITIZENS PARTICIPANTS

Fannie Frost
Nannie Fur Fox,
Vera Cleghorn
Lucy Whitecloud
Minnie Moore
Vangie Pipestem
Esther Gorden
Zelda Yeahquo
[illegible]
Lorena DeRoin
Emanuel Black
Ernest Vetter
Virgie Julian
Ruby Williams
Mary Ellen Thomas
Mary Carson
[illegible]
Earl Plumley

Item 2

WINNEBAGO TRIBE of NEBRASKA

WINNEBAGO TRIBAL COUNCIL P.O. BOX 687 WINNEBAGO, NEBRASKA 68071

July 16, 1986

Mr. Perry Cain
Legislative Staff Assistant
Senator Don Nickles
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Cain:

In 1985 the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska received funding under Title VI and currently operates a nutrition and socialization service program for the elderly members (60 & over) of the Winnebago community.

Of the one hundred three (103) eligible members who reside in the community, eighty five (85) take part in the services of the center. The eighteen (18) who do not participate are aware of the program, but for personal reasons do not use the services at this time.

The objectives of the Winnebago Title VI Program is to:
1. Provide a nutritional noon meal to the elders five (5) days a week in a congregate and home delivered setting.
2. Provide program staff with necessary training to effectively perform their assigned duties.
3. Provide other services and resources to the elderly such as food stamps, energy assistance, transportation, etc..
4. Provide social and recreational activities and field trips.
5. Provide a system that will ensure that all records required in the maintenance of the Title VI Program are kept up to date.

Fiscal Year 1986 funds were at $52,849.00; while the Fiscal Year 1987 funding was reduced to $48,841.00.

The main obstacle for the Winnebago Title VI Program is the reduction in funding. This reduction will not provide for adequate staff, nor will this provide for adequate training sessions.

The Winnebago Title IV Program alleviates part of the problem by assisting with training and travel monies. There is hope we can apply for Title IV funds to assist our Title VI Program in the future.

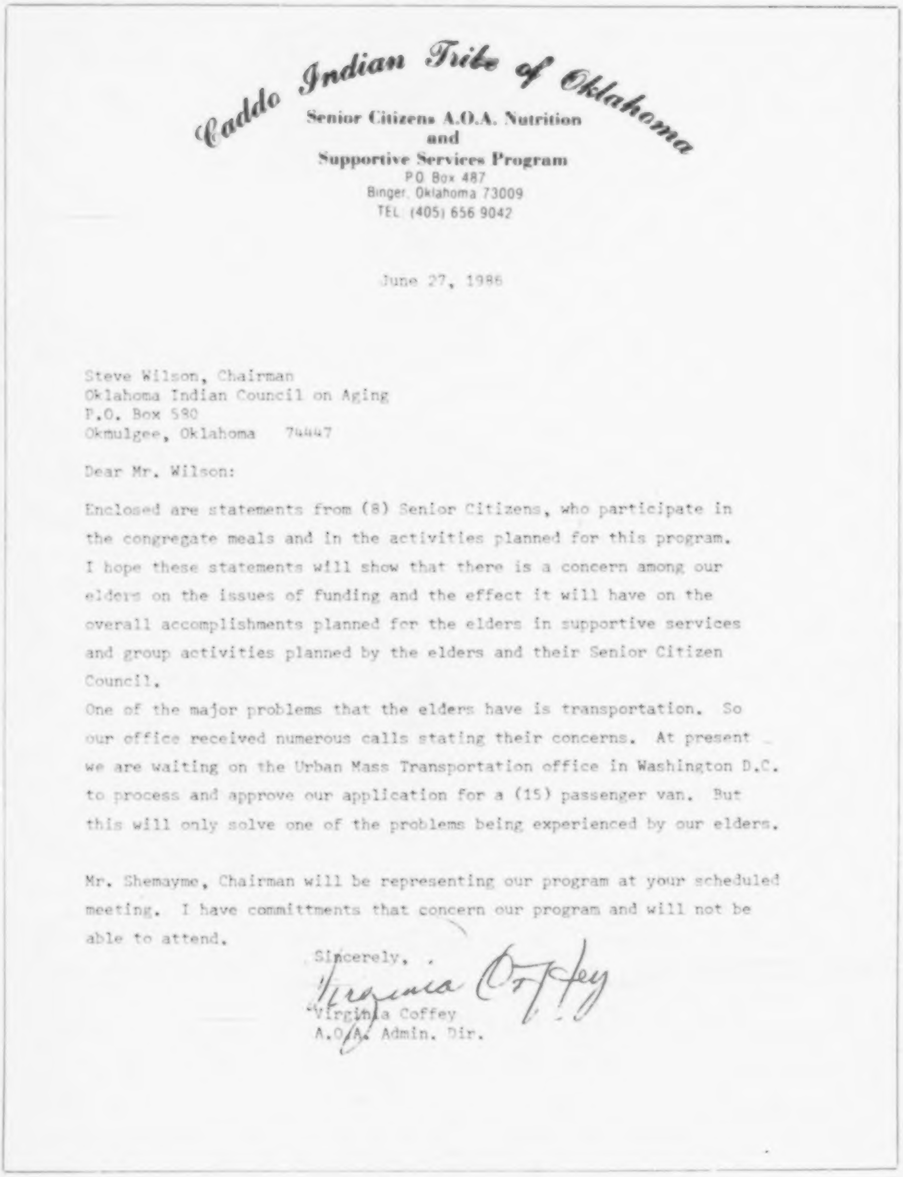
The Winnebago Tribe is working hard toward providing quality life for the elders of the reservation. All our efforts center around the Senior Citizens Center and the various services provided by Title VI. The Center is the hub for all their activities and services that our elders enjoy.

For our Winnebago elders,

Elizabeth Bird

Elizabeth Bird, Site Coordinator
Title VI Program
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Item 3



Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
Senior Citizens A.O.A. Nutrition
and
Supportive Services Program
P.O. Box 487
Binger, Oklahoma 73009
TEL. (405) 656 9042

June 27, 1986

Steve Wilson, Chairman
Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Enclosed are statements from (8) Senior Citizens, who participate in the congregate meals and in the activities planned for this program. I hope these statements will show that there is a concern among our elders on the issues of funding and the effect it will have on the overall accomplishments planned for the elders in supportive services and group activities planned by the elders and their Senior Citizen Council.

One of the major problems that the elders have is transportation. So our office received numerous calls stating their concerns. At present we are waiting on the Urban Mass Transportation office in Washington D.C. to process and approve our application for a (15) passenger van. But this will only solve one of the problems being experienced by our elders.

Mr. Shemayme, Chairman will be representing our program at your scheduled meeting. I have committments that concern our program and will not be able to attend.

Sincerely,

Virginia Coffey

Virginia Coffey
A.O.A. Admin. Dir.

PLEASE

GIVE YOUR COMMENTS AND SIGN YOUR NAME

TO: MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARING COMMITTEE

1. THIS NUTRITION PROGRAM RECIEVED OVER $ 4,000.00 CUT IN FUNDING AND THE GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING TO CUT OUR FUNDING AGAIN. THIS MAY MEAN A CUT IN PERSONNEL, FOOD AND SUPPLIES THAT WE ARE ABLE TO SUPPORT NOW.

    A. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THIS PROBLEM?

2. IF THIS PROGRAM RECEIVES THESE CUTS IN FUNDING, IT COULD EFFECT THE SERVICES THAT THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES SUCH AS, MEAL DELIVERIES AND OTHER SERVICES THAT WE ARE PRESENTLY PROVIDING.

    A. WHAT ARE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS PROBLEM?

    B. STATE ANY OTHER FEELINGS THAT YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THIS PROBLEM OR WHAT YOU PERSONALLY FEEL THAT WILL EFFECT YOU, SUCH AS, A PLACE TO GET TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES EACH DAY TO EAT AND VISIT AND TO MAKE PLANS ON WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR THIS PROGRAM TO GET INVOLVE.

THIS TABLET IS FOR YOUR USE:

①
A– We do not need any Cuts as we are now aperating efficiently, on the amount allowed.

②
A – we are now in need of transportation for more elderly seniors to center if Cuts are delivereis are allowed several seniors citizens will be deprived of balanced meals.

③
A – I feel being together is helpful spiritual. Physical and mentally, we need the closeness + fellowship + do plan on more activities in future.

Jean Priddy.

June 26, 1986

1. (a). The cut in funding has had severe impact on the AOA Program after just one (1) year into the Program and finding the cost to be somewhat higher than had been planned for.

2. This will mean less people that can be served.
   (a). Meals delivered and on site.
   (b). The referrals on the amount of action that could and should be taken.

3. (a). Transportation is one of the biggest problems within the present program not to mention funding.
   (b). Transport to pick-up elders for on site feeding.
   (c). A very important part is the delivery of meals to elders with no transportation.
   (d). Also the volunteer's that are willing to help with no transportation.
   (e). Transporting supplies and equipment needed for the program.
   (f). If this problem could be resolved I believe the program would be a more effective cause.
   (g). At present time transportation is temporary.

Elmo Clark
Elmo Clark

THIS TABLET IS FOR YOUR USE:

1- I dont thank this funding should be Cut for our people needs this Program.

2- And the Delivery of meals are needed for People that cant get out or Come to the Center.

3- I feel that we need to try to get all ~~People~~ Elders involved in the culture of the Caddo tribe

Sadie Nelson

THIS TABLET IS FOR YOUR USE:

(June 26. 1985)

Comments

My Comments – This progam is some- ~~thing~~ good that ever happen~~s~~ to the Caddo tribe for their Senior Citizens. We Can ~~to~~ sure use all the help we Senior Citizens ~~they~~ can get from this program. let's Hope & pray we can continue on & & Receive the help we are getting I thank you

Ellen Williams
A Senior Citizen

THIS TABLET IS FOR YOUR USE:

I Think that is wrong to cut our Senior citizens funding since it was promised to us at the beginning to receive so much money for senior citizens; And, as you know, we senior citizens have no funding of any kind and we need this program as it is being used all over for us. The senior citizens need this program to be left as it is because we need it.

Noah L. Frank

THIS TABLET IS FOR YOUR USE:

1) Cutting of the Funds will hamper the Meals & Delivery, We are unable to cook all the time

The thing we see is the transportation problem, As they only have temporary delivery service, Most elders live out of local Area and have to find someone to get this meal,

Rudy Gonzales
Arnita Gonzales

THIS TABLET IS FOR YOUR USE:

1A I believe the funding has been cut enough, And should not be less than the present level of funding.

2A Same as 1.A above. The program would be ineffective if it was cut below the present level funding.

B. If possible, more transportation would be helpful getting people together for meals at the Complex.
This is a good program and should not be cut more, If any thing it should have more to go on.

I am very thankful for this program, helps me a lot. ([illegible].) Morrisett

Item 4

QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

P. O. BOX 765 QUAPAW, OKLAHOMA 74363

MEMORANDUM:

DATE: June 25, 1986

TO: : Meals On Wheels (Title VI) Participants

FROM : Henry Ellick, Business Manager H.E.

SUBJECT: Request for additional funding.

We have received information from Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging requesting comments from the elders regarding the need for additional funding.

Please feel free to add any comments that you feel would be relevant.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

LeRoy [illegible]
Signature

COMMENTS: The good well balanced meals provided by this program are a welcome occurance in the daily routine in our house. It is comforting to realize that elderly recipients will receive one (at least) good meal each day and will have a caring person check for otherwise unreported illness or accident. Thank you for the services.

(PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR DRIVER BY THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1986)

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Dorothy J. Landis
Signature

COMMENTS: Need C.H.R. Program: Checking up on older Indians for blood pressure, eating habits (regular), cooling fans in summer. Better system of assistance for repair work on dwellings - after use of few years things sometime need to be repaired or replaced

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Virginia T. Jowlin
Signature

COMMENTS: While we have this program going any additional funding would make this more sturdy & reliable. A great need for the Elders.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Virginia Louise Spurgeon
Signature

COMMENTS: The appreciate the meals very much and would like the meals to continue.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Joseph J. Olsen
Signature

COMMENTS: It's God sent during this hot weather that's coming up. It saves so many things when you think about it. We thank everyone who has any thing to do with it.

Thank You

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Jewel Q Bryan
Signature

COMMENTS: It is a Needed Program & should have additional funding to help the Native America Elders.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Edith L. Crawfish
Signature

COMMENTS: Respectively, I Consider the Meals on Wheels, and excellent program a balanced diet, good nutrition is Most important to the Shut-in.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Pauline Greenback
Signature
by E. Crawfish

COMMENTS: I want to thank the Meals-on-Wheels for the service they have given me - a handicap - I think this program is very important & should be continued. (Mrs Greenback is unable to write, due to her handicap) E.C.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Mary S Foote
Signature

COMMENTS: Meals are helpful days when hot and don't feel up to cooking when sugar is high. Meals are good.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Signature

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Lillie Rogers
Signature

COMMENTS:

No Comments

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Lucy Blalock
Signature

COMMENTS: ______

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Coweta Ulrey
Signature

COMMENTS: A request for a van for use by the elders would be helpful - Some do not drive - others aren't able to drive.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

George C Foote
Signature

COMMENTS: I GEOTGE FOOTE AGE 58 DISABLED IS WRITTING CONCURNING OF MEALS ON WHEEL. I LIKE THE SERVICE AND ALSO LIKE THE FOOD. THEIR WORK.
IT IS NICE TO GET MEALS AT HOME
THAT WE CAN JUST GET UP IN TIME FOR IT

(PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR DRIVER BY THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1986)

WE ARE GLAD TO GET MEALS AS, IT HELPS. TO.
KEEP US COOL. (FROME HEATING THE HOUSE)
IT SAVES US GAS AND WATER FROM (COOKING) (WASHING DISHES)

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

John Ulery
Signature

COMMENTS: A request for additional funding for delivery people of meals on wheels would be helpful; most elders like to eat at the same time daily and some are diabetics and must eat at regular times.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Helen [illegible] Kinder
Signature

COMMENTS: These are funds which are well spent for good service and are certainly needed.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Pauline Crisp
Signature

COMMENTS: Most of the elders are just existing on their Social Security. Any help they get is much needed. For many are doing without medications and proper nutrition to meet utilities and insurances. Title VI has been a great help to many people.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

May a Foate
Signature

COMMENTS: Mrs. Foate injoy's her meals on wheels and it is a big Service to her. as she is 84 years old.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Signature

COMMENTS: We enjoy our meals and hope they continues.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Mable Skaggs
Signature

COMMENTS: I think this Program is very helpful to Sr. Americans. It Provides a Complete Nourishing meal which Most Sr Citizens wouldn't get.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Ozina Dixon
Signature

COMMENTS:

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Emmie L. Holt
Signature

COMMENTS: I hope that the Tribal gets what they need, I am sure the elderly need more. You have been so helpful for me. I am so thankful.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Evelyn Cooke
Signature

COMMENTS: This program is so vital since it provides a Wholesome, balanced diet Meal Which Most Senior Citizens Wouldn't have. Some are unable to prepare it + Some unable to buy the necessary foods to have a balanced Meal.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

INoLA PathKiller
Signature
and EVELYN. JONES

COMMENTS: I am not able to work because I have lupus and other health problems so I care for an older woman in my home this program helps us on our food bill and without it I would have to depend on my family.

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Charles A. Greenback
Signature

COMMENTS: It is a blessing for the people who cannot prepare meals for them selves on days when they are ill with aches & pains

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Signature

COMMENTS: We live on Soc. Sec. Any helps we can get is appreciated

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Lee Ray Clark
Signature

COMMENTS:

(PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR DRIVER BY THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1986)

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

John Stasell
Signature

COMMENTS: This is a Wonderful Program I hope it Will Continue it Sure Help The Elderly Especiall The ones That Live alone it Has Been a Great Help to Me and I Sure appriciate it

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Mary Olsen
Signature

COMMENTS:

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Leona Clemons
Signature

COMMENTS:

I respectively request additional funding for the Title VI program in order to provide services for the Native American elders.

Pearl Clarke
Signature

COMMENTS:

Item 5

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
PHONE (208) 238-3858
(208) 238-3857
(208) 238-3859

FORT HALL NUTRITION PROGRAM
P. O. BOX 306
FORT HALL, IDAHO 83203

July 18, 1986

Perry Cain, Legislative Staff Assistant
Senator Don Nickles
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator:

Hugh E. Edmo, Chairman of the Idaho Indian Council of aging with Viola Rodriguez, Elderly Nutrition Program Director, Fort Hall, Idaho are presenting this written testimony on behalf of the Elders of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

Our Reservation contains five districts. 1) Fort Hall District-2) Gibson District-3) Ross Fork District-4) Lincoln Creek District-5) Bannock Creek District. Our nutrition program is lacking adequate funding to implement the services to the five districts on this reservation.

We are able to serve two of these districts, Fort Hall District and Gibson District. Our elderly program is funded through Title VI amendment of 1978 Older American Act of 1965. These funds are inadequate to serve the elders of our reservation. Seventeen new applicants to the Title VI was approved and being served, However, no increase was given to the budget and we are experiencing budget cuts. We are already scrapping bottom. We would like to receive a supplementary funds from Title IV. Please, advise us the proper procedure or initiate a procedure for us to follow. Its unreal to assume we can handle the needs of our elderly without suitable funds. We must have alternate resource made available to us in behalf of our Indian elders.

We have transportation needs as our reservation covers a large area. The elders in these other three districts are being deprived of their proper nutrition needs. As the largest percentage of our elders are low income, yet they are deprived of sufficient needs and nutrition. We have a high incidence of diabetes, heart problems and other illness affecting our elderly people.

Our nutrition program cannot receive allotted funding from Title III.

Title VI and Title III cannot overlap. We cannot use Title VI staff to serve those elders in Title III. Title VI cannot transport those in Title III area. Is there no remedy?

There must be a way to increase the appropriations for Title VI. The program, Title VI is extremely under funded for the Idaho Tribes.

Writing as the CHAIRMAN of the Idaho Indian Council on Aging for the Five Idaho Tribes, We need more training and technical assistance. We need the services that is received under Title III home chore, minor home repairs, etc. As more tribes enter the Title VI Grantees Program, we strongly recommend an appropriation of the sum of 25 million for the tribal VI Grantees of the tribes of the United States of America.

Yours Sincerely in need,

Hugh Edmo

Hugh Edmo, Chairman-IICOA

Viola Rodriguez

Viola Rodriguez, Elderly Nutrion Program Director

Item 6

TOIYABE INDIAN HEALTH PROJECT

PAIUTE PROFESSIONAL CENTER
CORNER OF TUSU LANE AND WEST LINE STREET
P. O. BOX 1296, BISHOP, CALIFORNIA 93514

(619) 873-8461

UTU UTU GWAITU PAIUTE TRIBE
BENTON, CA

BIG PINE BAND OF PAIUTE
SHOSHONE INDIANS
BIG PINE, CA

BISHOP PAIUTE RESERVATION
BISHOP, CA

BRIDGEPORT INDIAN RESERVATION
BRIDGEPORT, CA

ANTELOPE VALLEY IND. COMMUNITY
COLEVILLE, CA

TIMBISHA SHOSHONE TRIBE
DEATH VALLEY, CA

FT. INDEPENDENCE IND. RESERVATION
INDEPENDENCE, CA

LONE PINE BAND OF THE OWENS
VALLEY PAIUTE-SHOSHONE INDIANS
LONE PINE, CA

MONO LAKE INDIAN COMMUNITY
LEE VINING, CA

BISHOP CLINIC
P. O. BOX 1296
BISHOP, CA 93514
(619) 873-8461

LONE PINE CLINIC
P. O. BOX 160
LONE PINE, CA 93545
(619) 876-4795

CAMP ANTELOPE CLINIC
P. O. BOX 76
COLEVILLE, CA 96107
(916) 495-2151

August 5, 1986

Perry Cain, Legislative Staff Assistnat
Senator Don Nickles
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

SUBJECT: Testimony of Toiyabe Indian Health Project, Title VI Nutrition Program, Bishop, California

Dear Mr. Cain:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Title VI Nutritional program, located in the Eastern Sierras of California, at Bishop, California.

Our feeding site services the Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe elders at two feeding sites. One in Big Pine and the other in Benton, California. Ours is unique in that we share food costs and meals with the local Title IV program with the non-Indian community. This is due to the drastic cuts in funding and our health project having to subsidize the costs for operation. The present level of funding is simply not enough to maintain the high costs of a quality program which includes delivery, operation, and staffing. These are also the concerns of other nutritional sites in "Indian Country" and something must be done to advocate for the issues of our elderly Native Americans. With the added cuts for programs comes cuts in services that are barely now existing. There should be a voice, and Indian desk, to present the problems and issues of elderly Native Americans to the top policy makers. Funding needs to be looked at carefully with past cuts in funding restored.

Our elders have contributed to our society and they now need to have an opportunity to live life to the fullest. It is a dire matter that these considerations be afforded them.

Thank you for your concern to this letter, and if you have any questions, I can be reached at (619) 873-8461.

Sincerely,

Rose Mary Joe

Rose Mary Joe, Director
Community Services Department

RMJ/lmd